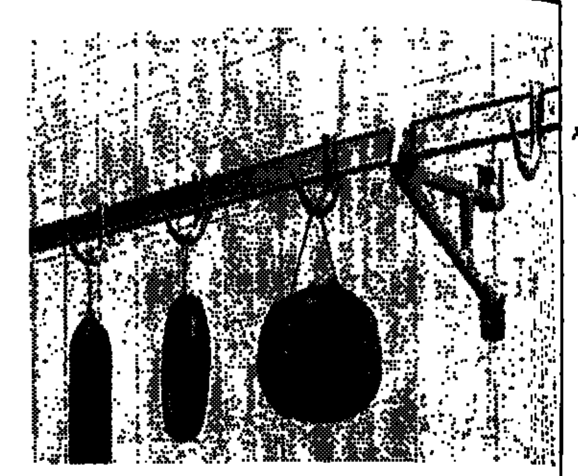
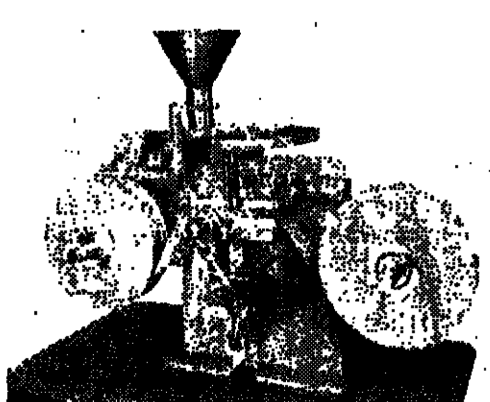
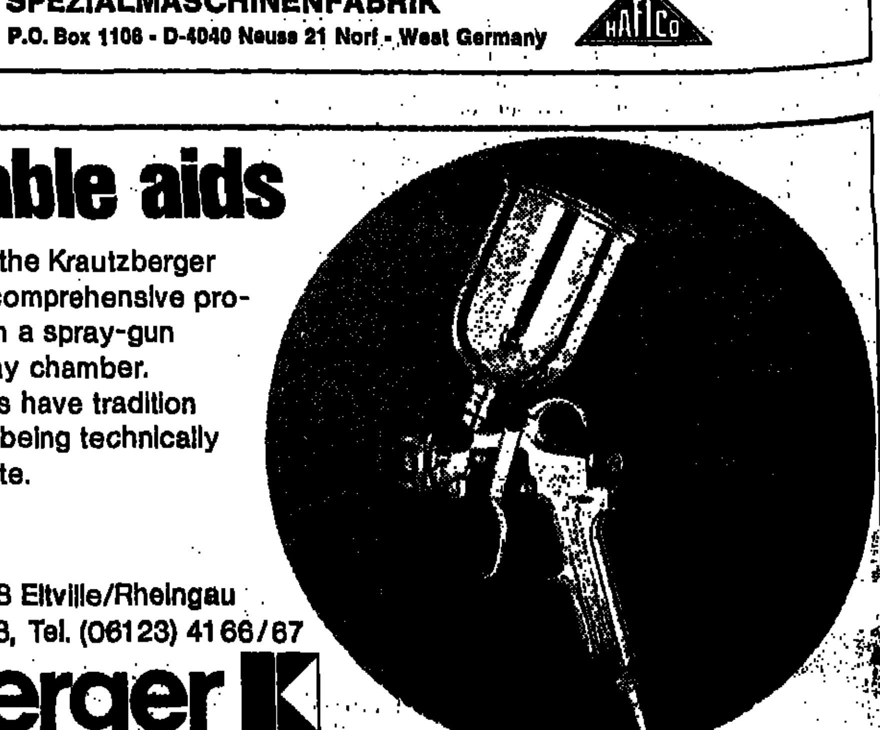










The German Tribune

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The West needs a new world strategy

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Nato is back among the lod. The United States and its new President are, at any rate, in the process of taking over the reins of leadership once more, and with a greater degree of tact than a number of heads of government may have feared.

Helmut Schmidt has certainly adapted to the new administration in Washington. Bonn chose to do so prior to the London summit, but the personal encounter at 10 Downing Street undoubtedly served to clear the air.

Mr Carter was immediately accepted without reservation by his Nato partners, and the welcome he was given is more than a matter of mere personalities.

For one it improves the prospect of Nato taking up the challenge of the future more flexibly, more energetically and with a greater degree of unanimity.

What is more, domestic stability elsewhere in the North Atlantic pact stands to be given a fillip. The governments of most Nato countries could well do with a shot in the arm in terms of the confidence they enjoy at home.

This applies to Bonn too, even though this country is viewed internationally, as both London summits showed, as either the infant prodigy or the strongman of Europe.

Which is why it is important that the dangerous dispute between Bonn and Washington over this country's nuclear deal with Brazil appears to all intents and purposes to have been settled.

Up to a point both sides have come to terms with the facts, inalienable as they are. What is more, both Bonn and Washington hope to settle a number of still sensitive issues by means of international agreement.

Other problems faced by Nato and the West have not been resolved to the same extent, however. What consequences Communist participation in Italian and French coalition governments might have for Nato, for instance, was a problem dealt with only on the periphery of the summit.

The Carter administration seems to take a more level-headed view of the possibility than its predecessor. This is an undeniably important development.

How might the balance be redressed if this particular problem were to arise? America in particular currently seems to feel that Spanish membership of Nato might be the answer.

But that would depend, even for the United States, on the outcome of the forthcoming general election in Spain, on the form the future Spanish constitution is to take and, last not least, on the intentions of the Spanish government.

Anxiety about post-Tito Yugoslavia has grown less acute, not even being mentioned in London. Moscow, the West evidently feels, will show both patience and circumspection.

Another issue that gave rise to furrowed brows all over the West as recently as last December has also been shelved. No mention was made in London of the possibility of a surprise attack by the Warsaw Pact.

Sooner or later there are bound to be changes at the top in Moscow if for no other reason than the age of the Kremlin leaders. The same applies in many Nato capitals, for that matter.

This prospect poses questions, answers, to which are to be sought by the survey of the East bloc proposed by President Carter and commissioned by the North Atlantic Council.

Important though all the problems so far outlined may be, the crucial outcome of the London summit is the realisation that the West as a whole is in need of a new strategy.

It is not just a military strategy that is needed either. What the West needs is something far more comprehensive, including the economic and technological sectors and the West's overall view of the world, including the Communist countries.

Here too Mr Carter has given the lead, and all that remains is for America's European allies to decide whether or not they are able and willing to follow it.

They have called on Uncle Sam to take the initiative in this way for long enough. A number of European leaders — Helmut Schmidt, for instance — have been thinking along similar lines in any case.

So the prospects of success look good, but it is by no means a foregone conclusion.

Hans Gerlach

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 12 May 1977)



Meeting in London to discuss Berlin a day before the NATO summit, were, from left, Britain's Prime Minister James Callaghan, US President Jimmy Carter, French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, and this country's Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. (Photo: dpa)

New declaration by West on status of Berlin

Jimmy Carter has got off to a good start. His sense of mission may remind one of President Kennedy, but he evidently has no intention of repeating JFK's mistakes.

John F. Kennedy undoubtedly made a mistake when he decided to confer with Nikita Khrushchev on his own in June, 1961. Their Vienna summit certainly turned out to be a dramatic encounter.

General de Gaulle had strongly advised President Kennedy not to go ahead with the Vienna summit and in the event his misgivings were vindicated. Two months later the Berlin Wall was built.

It was President Carter's own idea to follow up the London economic summit with a summit meeting on Germany and Berlin attended by himself, Mr Callaghan, M. Giscard d'Estaing and Herr Schmidt.

The objective of this second summit was to frame a declaration on Berlin aimed mainly at the Soviet government and Mr Brezhnev, who is scheduled not only to visit Paris and Bonn, but must also meet Mr Carter sooner or later if detente is not to become a dead letter.

Declarations on and guarantees for Berlin have always been a stock in trade of Nato summits. Stalin's blockade and the 1948/49 airlift were instrumental in leading to the establishment of Nato.

The latest declaration on the status of the divided city carries weight in two respects: the juncture at which it has been made and the fact that it bears Mr Carter's signature.

Regardless of the 1971 Four-Power Agreement, the Four-Power status of the city seemed to have set into an irreversible decline; (more or less) routine protests by the Western Powers have appeared unable to stop the rot.

East Berlin has been excised from the terms of the Four-Power Agreement and deemed an integral part of the GDR. The agreement has been declared to apply solely to the "separate political entity of West Berlin."

The upshot of this Soviet interpretation is that Moscow retains a right to a say in the running of the three Western sectors, whereas the Western Powers' influence extends to the Wall and no further.

This, then, was the situation, and the indications are that both Moscow and East Berlin felt they had almost reached their goal: It was high time the East was put firmly in its place.

No threats were uttered; Washington, Whitehall, Paris and Bonn merely reiterated the fact that strict observation and full implementation of the Four-Power Agreement on Berlin remains the touchstone of detente.

This may seem old hat, but it is not. Detente must be a dead letter as long as it fails to apply to Berlin. The Four-Power Agreement must be both observed and implemented, especially the provision regarding ties between West Berlin and the Federal Republic.

Mr Brezhnev should now know where he stands. So should Herr Honecker.

This latest declaration could mark a turning point, though it remains to be seen whether for better or for worse. It constitutes a pledge by the man who is clearly engaged in donning the mantle of the leader of the West.

President Carter evidently regards himself as a champion of human rights and the Berlin Wall as a "dramatic expression of hunger for freedom."

Yet he is realistic enough to appreciate that even though he might like to pull down the Wall the very idea is mere wishful thinking.

Soviet policy towards Berlin could nonetheless lead to a Berlin crisis and Mr Carter has accordingly decided to sound a warning note before it is too late.

Fritz Lucke

(Nordwest Zeitung, 10 May 1977)

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Egon Bahr's visit to Moscow to improve relations

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Egon Bahr, Bonn business manager of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), may have denied visiting Moscow in an official or even semi-official capacity, but he conferred with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko immediately on his arrival, so he will hardly have been in the Soviet capital merely to lecture to the Academy of Sciences.

Herr Bahr is probably more conversant with the Kremlin than any other politician in this country and his brief will surely have been to revitalise relations between Bonn and Moscow prior to Mr Brezhnev's visit to this country.

The Soviet leader now seems likely to visit Bonn in either late September or early October, so both sides have little enough time left in which to improve relations that are currently at a low ebb.

Bonn could badly do with good news in the foreign affairs sector, while the Soviet Union too is anxious not to allow relations with its stablest opposite number in Western Europe to sink to sub-zero temperatures.

Trade in both directions has increased by leaps and bounds since Mr Brezhnev's last visit to Bonn in 1973, but political relations have completely stagnated.

Following the 1974 Cabinet reshuffle in Bonn the Soviet Union evidently came to feel that Chancellor Schmidt was allowing Foreign Minister Genscher too free a rein in foreign affairs.

Herr Genscher, Moscow reasoned, was intent on boosting his own image by means of a *tour de force* in Berlin.

Whether or not this impression was accurate is neither here nor there. What matters is that the Soviet Union, which was as quick to take offence as it had been to be delighted, stonewalled on Berlin.

Three agreements between the Federal Republic and the Soviet Union had been drafted and were ready for signing. All three have had to be shelved because of failure to reach agreement on the status of West Berlin.

It now looks as though deadlock is being at least partially resolved, with the Bonn Foreign Office taking up Soviet ambassador Falin's hint that the time may have come to call a truce in Berlin.

When Günther van Well of the Foreign Office visited Moscow recently he was instructed to try to circumvent these controversial agreements with a view to making progress on other issues.

This of course means that Bonn is prepared to forgo the signing of the three agreements prior to or during Mr Brezhnev's visit.

Cultural exchange arrangements are functioning in any case, give or take a certain amount of friction here and there. The legal aid agreement is more symbolic in character than practical in its repercussions. And Moscow is more kennly interested than Bonn in technological and scientific exchange.

But the Berlin problem cannot be avoided entirely even though both sides may be prepared to set aside these three agreements so as not to exacerbate differences of opinion.

Mr Falin's criticism of the London declaration on Berlin by the four Western powers was levelled less at what was said than at the way in which it was said, mind you.

This is not the only sign of a less inflexible attitude on the Soviet Union's part. Moscow lodged a complaint in respect of Bonn's nuclear deal with Brazil, but subsequently chose to maintain a low profile on the matter.

The Soviet Union, when all is said and done, itself wanted to call on the services of Federal Republic nuclear technology to build a nuclear power station near Kaliningrad.

This particular project may have been shelved for the time being, to judge by what Mr Falin has had to say on the subject, but Moscow remains keen to discuss similar projects.

A persistent problem, however, is that Moscow would like to pay for the nuclear technology it imports from this country with electric power from the nuclear power stations once they are completed.

But while Bonn insists that the power is relayed to the Federal Republic via a grid incorporating West Berlin, Moscow is most reluctant to oblige on this score.

When he finally visits this country, Mr Brezhnev seems determined to reiterate his 1973 offer of joint exploitation of the Soviet Union's immense energy reserves, arguing that the Soviet Union could underwrite a substantial proportion of this country's energy requirements in return.

If this item recurs on the agenda it is a sure sign that nothing else is in the offing between Bonn and Moscow that might be termed bright, new and beautiful.

Herr Schmidt and Mr Brezhnev will certainly exchange views on the Vienna troop-cut talks, and the Soviet Union would like to see the two leaders reach agreement of some kind or other.

The Chancellor, who is a specialist in this sector, has intimated on more than one occasion that the troop-cut talks must be dealt with at the highest political level if civil servants fail to arrive at a solution. The opportunity should soon come his way.

Following the demonstration of Western unity at the London summits Bonn would do well to set about improving relations with the Soviet Union.

Continued on page 3

Plain speaking by Western leaders on Berlin

DIE WELT

Moscow could hardly be expected to be overjoyed at the plain speaking in which Mr Carter, Mr Callaghan, M Giscard d'Estaing and Herr Schmidt engaged on Berlin at their London summit.

Soviet ambassador Falin promptly voiced criticism in Bonn, but his objections do not hold water. Even so, they are typical of the attention to detail the Kremlin pays in trying to ensure that the terms of the 1971 Four-Power Agreement are interpreted as narrowly as possible.

Mr Falin is unhappy at the Western leaders reaffirming the ties between West Berlin and the Federal Republic and emphasising that Bonn is responsible for representing West Berlin abroad.

Yet both statements are firmly based on the terms of the Four-Power Agreement and it is all very well for Mr Falin to argue that they form only part of the agreement, but the Soviet Union invariably quotes only what suits Soviet policy at any given time.

This, surely, is sufficient justification for the West to emphasise sections of the Four-Power Agreement that suit it.

"The governments of France, the United States and the United Kingdom," the crucial passage of the London declaration reads, "noted that detente would be seriously jeopardised if one of the four signatories of the Four-Power Agreement were not fully to respect the obligations undertaken by the terms of the agreement and reaffirmed in the Four-Power declaration of 9 November 1972."

Moscow would do well to take this reminder as seriously as it is intended. If Mr Falin chooses to argue the toss and in the process still further to restrict the provisions of the Four-Power Agreement he is doing exactly what the London declaration advises against.

Prospects for Mr Brezhnev's forthcoming visit to Bonn look none too good despite Mr Falin's hopes of "new and powerful impulses" as a result. If these impulses are not to apply in equal measure to Berlin their political value is nil.

Bernt Conrad

(Die Welt, 12 May 1977)

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Onus on Bonn to achieve promised growth targets

Helmut Schmidt can fairly claim to have scored a major personal success in London. The Chancellor largely succeeded in persuading the assembled heads of State and government to accept his economic policy line.

As a result, however, this country is under a moral obligation — a more pressing obligation than anyone else — to reach the targets envisaged at the London summit.

As the mainstay of economic growth in Western Europe, Bonn undertook to achieve its domestic growth targets this year, but to judge by the latest figures a growth rate of five per cent in real terms appears wildly optimistic.

And as for unemployment declining to less than 800,000 for the year as a whole as envisaged in the Federal government's annual economic survey, this target now seems a complete no-hoper.

Even the most optimistic economists associated with the latest joint forecast do not expect the growth rate this year to exceed four and a half per cent — and the pessimists are not banking on more than three and a half!

The more long-term prospects look none too bright either. A survey of chambers of commerce and industry indicates that a mere 90,000 new jobs are expected to be created between now and the end of the decade.

Even if employment perks up more in other sectors of the economy the overall level of unemployment is unlikely to be reduced as one post-war baby boom year after another leaves school.

So must we work on the assumption that a quarter of a century of affluence which blessed the industrialised countries with unprecedented mass prosperity is now to be followed by a corresponding era of depression?

Will economic stagnation, mass unemployment and no hope for young people be the hallmarks of the final quarter of the twentieth century?

There could be no greater folly than to espouse any such theory, no matter how much the latest statistics might appear to bear it out.

In recent years we have too been misled by forecasts based on the assumption that current problems will extend in unbroken progression into the future.

Not long ago labour shortages were, we were assured, going to be a permanent feature of the economy — or a permanent crisis in the motor industry or a permament surplus of demand over supply.

The results of the survey of chambers of commerce and industry will only hold good for as long as the prevailing view of economic prospects is one of gloom.

They will change as soon as investment policymakers reach the conclusion that Bonn is providing energetic and resolute leadership again, that costs are not going to continue snowballing and that there will be a return to political stability in major neighbouring countries.

This is not just a vain hope. In the United States, for instance, the advent of the Carter administration has led to a widespread economic recovery.

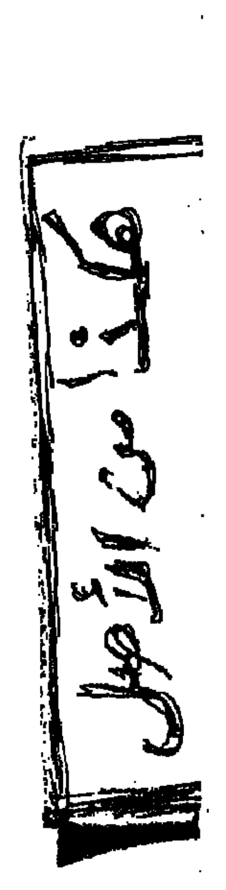
For the first time in US history more than ninety million Americans are in employment. Over the past twelve months alone 2.7 million new jobs have been created.

A recovery of such proportions may no longer be probable in this country this year, but there is no reason to assume it is out of the question.

What must be avoided at all cost is the assumption that the economy is incurably ill, followed by a prescription of state-control crutches and red-tape bandages that will prevent the economy from stretching its legs as soon as it is able.

Michael Jungblut

(Die Zeit, 13 May 1977)



■ EMPLOYMENT

Labour Minister Ehrenberg faces tough decisions

DIE ZEIT

It is high time Chancellor Schmidt's government acted on one of its first undertakings after the general election last autumn. Ending unemployment, the new government announced, must be given absolute priority.

One need hardly add that unemployment remains a major problem and that the man whom it most directly concerns is Herbert Ehrenberg, Minister of Labour and Welfare.

Herr Ehrenberg, who could hardly have undergone a more testing initial five months in charge of his portfolio, will doubtless be proved to have got his priorities right.

Restoring to an even keel the finances of the various state pension schemes is undeniably an urgent problem. So is curbing the spiralling cost of the health service. But lower unemployment remains the objective to which foremost priority must be attached.

It is all very well for Willy Brandt, say, to note that a bedrock of unemployment is unacceptable. As Minister of Labour, Herbert Ehrenberg at times has to come to terms with the unacceptable.

The results of a survey conducted by chambers of commerce and industry all over the country convey some idea of the problem Herr Ehrenberg will face as he drafts his labour market policy.

Industry, which accounts for one job in three, does not anticipate creating more than 90,000 new jobs between now and the end of the decade.

This number corresponds almost exactly to the additional number of jobs that will be needed by school-leavers from the post-war baby boom years.

In other words, a bedrock of little short of one million unemployed seems likely to remain a feature of the labour market landscape for many years to come.

Herbert Ehrenberg aims to resort to "all manner of means" to deal with the situation, and although there has been all manner of guesswork as to what he has in mind the Minister is still playing his cards close to the chest. Decisions have yet to be taken.

Before being appointed to the Cabinet Herr Ehrenberg was responsible for coordinating coalition economic and financial policies in conjunction, for the most part, with the Free Democrats' Graf Lambsdorff.

So Herbert Ehrenberg knows a thing or two about political management, and he certainly knows that many a project has died the death because too much was announced too volubly in advance — and many a politician has come to grief in this way too.

A number of possibilities nonetheless seem distinctly probable:

— An additional package of public works — in addition, that is, to the current programme for which budget allocations have been earmarked for several years — would do the construction industry a power of good.

In the public works sector projects have yet to be found, but part of the package would undoubtedly be incentives to encourage housebuilding. It is already rumoured in Bonn that expenditure of between 2,000 and 3,000 million deutschmarks may be involved.

— Last autumn a programme of special measures designed to relieve unemployment was inaugurated. It included mobility grants for the unemployed and wage allowances to induce employers to hire additional labour.

This programme expires at the end of May and is currently under review. In all probability it will be replaced by a new programme drawn up by officials who hope to have learnt from past mistakes.

Mistakes there have been, particularly in respect of works programmes. Local authorities have used Federal government funds to hire unemployed persons to do work they would otherwise have farmed out to private contractors, so the net effect on the labour market has been zero.

— Herr Ehrenberg feels that an additional tax on overtime pay might prove more effective. "Interesting" is his view of the proposal. In order to finance unemployment assistance the Ministry is also considering official backing for a supplementary tax to be levied on civil servants and maybe the self-employed to help foot the bill.

These moves will not keep everyone happy, of course. The trade unions, of course, are very much in favour of shorter working hours, although they have taken care to avoid further mention of the proposal made last autumn by Heinz Oskar Vetter, general secretary of the Trades Union confederation, for an embargo on wage increases in return.

As for the employers, they are increasingly arguing that much of the blame for high unemployment figures lies with shirkers who ought to be brought to book. Herbert Ehrenberg is far from enamoured of either suggestion.

Herr Ehrenberg, who is the first trained economist to hold his Cabinet post, reckons it would be a mistake to share the work available among a larger number of people.

The amount of work available, he argues, varies from week to week, and working hours would in theory need to be varied accordingly. What is more, in the long run what job seekers need are better qualifications.

If more people are to do less work, the way to go about it is to shorten people's working lives, not their working hours, Herr Ehrenberg maintains. But instead of retiring earlier, they should put in more training.

In this respect the Minister's arguments tally with those of the chambers of commerce and industry, where the introduction of a tenth year of compulsory schooling is recommended as one way of relieving the pressure on labour markets.

Employers will be less enthusiastic, however, about his proposal to extend existing provision for paid educational holidays. Yet this too would cut time spent at work and, provided the right kind of courses are sponsored, boost career qualifications.

Herr Ehrenberg certainly intends to do something about alleged shirkers, who not only defraud unemployment insurance contributors but also do untold numbers of genuine jobless harm because, since reliable estimates are not available, unemployment is frequently associated with intention to defraud the long suffering taxpayer.

An increase in the number of officers at employment exchanges ought to improve matters. At present each officer may have todeal with up to 1,200 job-hunters. It goes without saying that he can hardly hope to make a fair assessment in each and every case.

Older, out-of-work clerical staff could be hired for this purpose dealing fake and bona fide unemployment a double blow. Employment officers could also be appointed from the existing payroll after a shake-up at local government level.

The Minister is still mulling proposals over prior to submission to he Cabinet. This labour market policy package, coming in such swift succession to proposed legislation on health insurance and social security, has really kept the Ministry of Labour on its toes for the past few months.

"How many of your Ministry officials ever got any work done?" Hans Katzer, Minister of Labour until 1969, was once asked. "About half," he is reputed to have answered.

When Walter Arendt took over the Ministry the initial proportion of "workers" may have been higher, but their number swiftly dwindled. Herr Arendt never really succeeded in putting his house in order despite heading the Ministry for seven years.



Herbert Ehrenberg (Photo: Sven Simon)

Herbert Ehrenberg has been quick to make changes at the top, appointing his own nominees, and he is now making his Ministry officials do what they are there to provide the general public with: work.

Whether their current spate of activity will have the desired effect is, of course, another matter.

Streamlining the pensions schemes was, perhaps, the easiest assignment the Ministry faced. Apart from a few details the reform proposals may be summed up in three or four points.

Yet with unemployment higher than anticipated this year and probably next year too (and social security contributions correspondingly lower), the pension funds are by no means sure to strike a balance.

Curbing rising health service costs is a far tougher proposition because many more factors are involved. Herbert Ehrenberg has not been allowed to deal with a number of contributory factors, and as for increasing prescription charges or the like, these are the kind of suggestion to which Social Democrats do not take kindly.

Besieged by lobby interests of one kind and another, the Minister was unable to deal effectively with still other factors, so his attempt to curb spiralling health service costs will probably not prove effective in the long run.

As for unemployment, the influence Herbert Ehrenberg can bring to bear on this sensitive statistic is negligible.

He may be able to create jobs for tens of thousands of jobless and to axe unemployment benefit for tens of thousands of shirkers, but he stands no chance of reducing unemployment to *800,000* — the figure on which budget estimates and pension fund costing are based.

The Ministry of Labour cannot cut unemployment to this extent because, quite simply, the state of the economy renders one million jobless the more likely figure.

Herr Ehrenberg's leeway is limited and his prospects of success no more than moderate, yet the FDP's Graf Lambsdorff still holds him in great respect despite recent clashes over worker-manager proposals.

If Herbert Ehrenberg had been appointed Labour Minister a few years ago, the Free Democratic front-bencher says, we would have been spared many of the difficulties we now face.

Dieter Piel

(Die Zeit, 13 May 1977)

Egon Bahr's visit to Moscow...

Continued from page 2

Willy Brandt and Egon Bahr concluded a series of treaties with East bloc countries with a view to widening this country's leeway at a time when, in the late sixties, the Federal Republic ran a serious risk of ending out on a limb.

In the meantime Bonn's options have been extended considerably, but the Federal government would be tying its hands unnecessarily were it to neglect relations with the Kremlin.

Of late the Foreign Office has seemed to grow indifferent, so difficult have ties with Moscow become. Both Herr Genscher and his Foreign Office officials have felt that other parts of the world, such as the Third World, Southern Africa and the Middle East, might prove more amenable.

In order to explain away its inability to make headway in dealings with the Soviet Union the Foreign Office let it be known that the era of classical diplomacy was over and that foreign affairs were now mainly a matter of economics and energy.

In addition to somewhat dubious arguments of this kind foreign policymakers in Bonn were induced to make too many concessions to the Opposition in the interest of peace and quiet at home.

At all events there were few signs of a consistent foreign policy geared to long-term objectives. Herr Genscher took to travelling all over the world whilst postponing many pressing decisions.

Maybe Egon Bahr will have succeeded in persuading his Soviet hosts that Bonn no longer intends to regard relations with Moscow as a matter of mere routine.

Klaus Dreher

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 12 May 1977)

■ DEFENCE

Bundeswehr pins hopes on new anti-tank helicopter

The numerical supremacy of the Warsaw Pact Army and its conventional weapons has been worrying the Bundeswehr and its Generals for years.

Nato's 6,000 tanks are unequally matched with the Warsaw Pact's 23,000. How is this force to be brought to a halt without resorting to nuclear weapons — a force which can reach the Rhine within a matter of days?

Latterly, however, the Army Chiefs of Staff have been convinced that they have made considerable progress in solving this problem. They had to fight for their idea of a solution against dogged internal resistance.

But now our Army brass is virtually in a state of euphoria because of the Defence Committee's decision to improve our anti-tank armament by the acquisition of a new weapon: the anti-tank helicopter PAH 1.

A total of 212 PAH 1 choppers, which were developed by the Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm group, are to be purchased by 1982. The PAH 1 is fast, sure on target, can be used anytime and anywhere and is itself virtually invulnerable.

The helicopter is equipped with the Franco-German anti-tank rocket HOT. The thus equipped PAH 1 is said to be capable of destroying up to ten enemy tanks from a distance of four kilometres before it might expect to be hit.

Army strategists point out confidently that the 56 anti-tank choppers which will be available to each of the three German Army Corps by 1979 could eliminate more than 560 enemy tanks and thus paralyse more than two motorised division of the Warsaw Pact. This would — at least statistically — greatly diminish the supremacy of Red tanks.

But the euphoria of the Army Chiefs of Staff about the envisaged acquisition also has its internal Bundeswehr reasons. Helicopters operate in the air, and airspace has traditionally been reserved for the Air Force.

This led to friction between the various branches of the Armed Forces — frictions which might be understandable, but must not be permitted to make a chink in our armour (especially since the Air Force was treated more than considerately when it was decided to equip it with the expensive MRCA fighter plane.

But these difficulties are no longer spoken of at the Bonn Ministry of Defence. What is spoken of however — and with some justification — is the fact that the Army has at last achieved its advance into the third dimension owing to the introduction of the new helicopter.

There can be no doubt that a helicopter is at a considerable advantage vis-a-vis a surface-bound anti-tank system. The chopper operates at an altitude of between one and ten metres, it can hover over a specific point, take aim and fire and then change its position very swiftly.

Its manoeuvrability permits it to make use of every contour of the terrain in escaping radar detection. Its speed of 200 kph lends it superiority over any tank.

The PAH 1 can be directed by radio within the shortest possible time — be it singly or in squadrons — to proceed wherever the enemy is massing its armoured spearhead.

The anti-tank helicopter can traverse even fairly long distances at about eight times the speed of any motorised unit. With it, the strategy of flexible response gains in credibility.

Alas, this is a costly bird. If the defence of the Federal Republic of Germany were a purely national matter there would be no objection to the fact that the new Army weapon has been developed and financed by the German taxpayer.

In this case, too, Defence Minister Georg Leber was unable to prevail on the Nato partners to standardise their weapons although everybody is speaking of standardisation as a must.

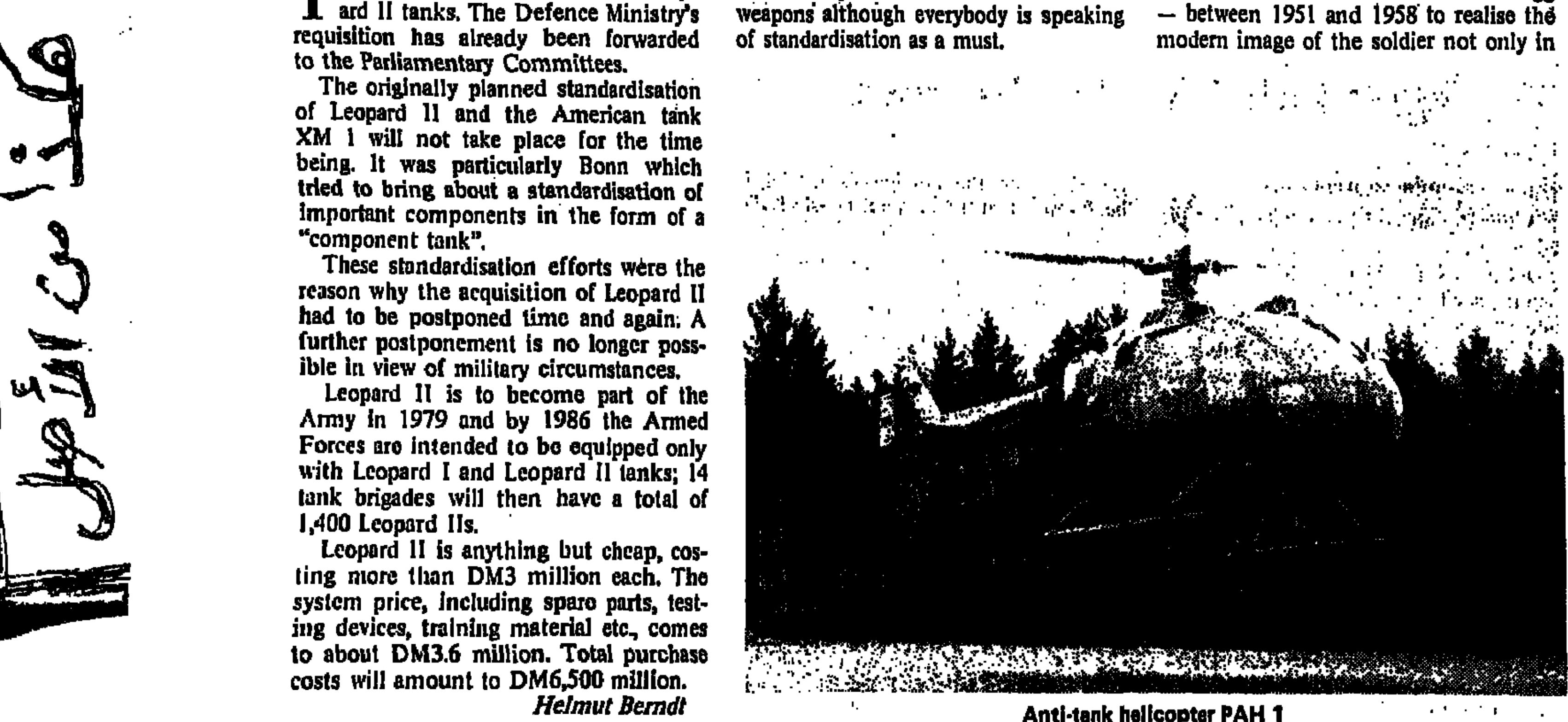
The production of the helicopter will of course secure German jobs. But it would have been economically more sound for the Alliance as a whole and for each individual Nato country to have agreed on a standarsided helicopter system. But national egotism has once more won the day.

At the same time the American Seventh Army is being equipped with its own anti-tank helicopter, which can fire French-made remote-controlled rockets, each worth 35,000 deutschmarks.

In view of this, it would be understandable for the Bundestag's Budget Committee to have doubts about the viability of the PAH systen, estimated to cost well over four million deutschmarks. When all is said and done, the credibility of a deterrent also to an extent involves economic considerations.

At least, the Bonn Defence Ministry

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Anti-tank helicopter PAH 1 (Photo: MBB)

Army to get 1,800 Leopard tanks

The Army is to receive 1,800 Leopard II tanks. The Defence Ministry's requisition has already been forwarded to the Parliamentary Committees.

The originally planned standardisation of Leopard II and the American tank XM 1 will not take place for the time being. It was particularly Bonn which tried to bring about a standardisation of important components in the form of a "component tank".

These standardisation efforts were the reason why the acquisition of Leopard II had to be postponed time and again. A further postponement is no longer possible in view of military circumstances.

Leopard II is to become part of the Army in 1979 and by 1986 the Armed Forces are intended to be equipped only with Leopard I and Leopard II tanks; 14 tank brigades will then have a total of 1,400 Leopard IIs.

Leopard II is anything but cheap, costing more than DM3 million each. The system price, including spare parts, testing devices, training material etc., comes to about DM3.6 million. Total purchase costs will amount to DM6,500 million.

Helmut Berndt

(Nordwest Zeitung, 7 May 1977)



Wolf Graf Baudissin (Photo: [illegible])

General Baudissin, architect of the Bundeswehr, turns 70

Münchner Merkur

General (Ret.) Wolf Graf Baudissin's famous words "the old barracks square is dead ... only in totalitarian regimes is blind obedience still the soldier's main virtue", which clearly demonstrate his distaste for the "barracks tone" and a chain of command based only on rank, have once more become topical.

General Baudissin, the father of the Bundeswehr's *Innere Führung* ("Inter Leadership") — a concept whereby the soldier is a citizen in uniform and the Armed Forces not a law unto themselves — has just turned 70.

If General Baudissin were to take stock of what has become of his "life's work", as former Bundeswehr Inspector-General Ulrich de Maiziére called the *Innere Führung* idea, he would have plenty of reasons to be satisfied.

As the deputy head of the *Innere Führung* Department of the Ministry of Defence, General Baudissin managed — together with General de Maiziére and Graf Johann Adolf von Kielmannsegg — between 1951 and 1958 to realise the modern image of the soldier not only in theory, but in fact as well despite fierce opposition.

In the Bundeswehr's everyday life at present, the Baudissin concept plays a much greater role than even the optimists of the military reformers of the fifties would have dare to hope for.

On retiring from active military service in 1968 General Baudissin said: "Freedom and discipline must be constantly reviewed." This maxim has governed the personal development of — and even critics confirm this — "the greatest military reformer *since Scharnhorst*."

Born on 8 May 1907, the son of a senior civil servant in Trier, he joined the Reichswehr at the age of 19. He left military service, however, and served a two-year apprenticeship as an agronomist.

Baudissin, who has been devoted to literature, music and art since his early youth, returned to active service, quickly rising to staff officer's rank. During World War II he saw combat as a Major, working on the staff of Field Marshal Rommel.

General Baudissin resumed his military career on 30 January 1956 and was from the very first day was co-responsible for the development of the Bundeswehr.

Graf Baudissin was not only an outstanding military theoretician, but also earned himself the reputation of a great pragmatist while serving as Deputy Chief of Staff for Central Europe at Nato headquarters in Fontainebleau. He was subsequently promoted to Lt General and became deputy head of the planning staff at the Supreme Headquarters of Allied Forces in Europe (Shape).

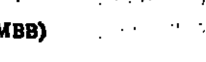
Wolf Graf Baudissin now heads the Institute for Peace and Conflict Research at Hamburg University.

He once formulated the common denominator for the future functions of the Bundeswehr as follows: "Only those who regard the preservation of peace as the prime objective of all politics and thus also as the prime task of the Armed Forces can summon the strength to take leave from the ideology of simply solutions and face the biting wind that blows in today's complicated world.

"They will realise that rational assessment is more necessary and indeed more manly today than taking heroic risks."

Siegfried Butty

(Münchner Merkur, 7 May 1977)



■ URBAN AFFAIRS

Manfred Rommel new head of municipalities association



The slogan of the *Deutscher Städtetag 1971* — "Save Our Cities Now!" — sounded like a cry for help. It was as if the Munich conference wanted to shake state and Federal politicians out of their lethargy.

The problems have not changed much in the six years since then. Looking at our major cities, we will find that, if anything, things have become worse.

The *Deutscher Städtetag* — a voluntary association of 500 municipalities — is helplessly watching how fewer and fewer respond to its cry for help.

And yet this organisation, which at one time had considerable influence is headed by outstanding municipal politicians.

The total population of the cities and towns within the organisation numbers 31 million — ranging from Berlin with its 2 million inhabitants to Hohenberg an der Eger with its population of 1,500. It is almost inconceivable that that many people should be unable to lend more weight to the *Deutscher Städtetag*, which was founded in Berlin in 1905.

Bremen's Mayor Hans Koschnick, SPD, termed the present dilemma a "vast defeat". Herr Koschnick, who was the president of this organisation for six years, has now turned his office over to Stuttgart's Mayor Manfred Rommel, CDU.

Hans Koschnick's words sound like an admission that the *Städtetag* has failed to achieve much in Bonn, notwithstanding years of discussion. There is hardly any other way in which one can interpret his words.

Granted, Herr Koschnick has every reason to be proud that nothing goes in Bonn anymore without the opinion of the *Städtetag* being sought ... and that is as far as it goes.

But this would be doing an injustice to the excellent and committed work of the *Städtetag* and the people behind it.

We do, after all, owe it to them that the endangered situation of our cities, especially the major ones, is something of which all Federal and state politicians are aware today and therefore consider a remedy as one of the most important tasks for the future.

The *Städtetag* has — and will continue to do so in the future — formulated the problems of our municipalities.

It delves into the worries and problems of the citizens and makes concrete demands for an orderly development. If this powerful organisation representing our cities had not dealt with the problems of municipalities we would in all likelihood be in an even bigger mess.

Although the success of the *Städtetag* is not always visible at first glance, it is certainly there and much of it is due to the work of Hans Koschnick.

Like few other people, Herr Koschnick knew how to make the public aware of the problems of our cities.

But the thus-created awareness of problems must not gloss over the fact that new determination and more financial sacrifices are needed if the part-solutions in the city planning of the sixties and seventies are to develop into hale and intact cities.

It will now largely depend on Manfred Rommel whether the cities will be able to improve their positions in the future. He will have to make the politicians sit up and take notice.

Mayor Rommel has been known primarily as an expert in financial affairs rather than as a municipal politician.

He will now have to prove that, in his function as Stuttgart's Mayor, he is also capable of thinking in nation-wide terms.

This is a great task for a relatively young municipal politician — especially in view of the fact that his work at the *Städtetag* will be compared with that of the previous Stuttgart Mayor Arnulf Klett who was president of the *Städtetag* twice and who enjoyed a nation-wide reputation as the president of the City Planning Committee, which he headed for thirty years.

Gert Fach

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 7 May 1977)



Manfred Rommel (Photo: Sven Simon)

Continued from page 4

can point out that it has achieved a certain degree of standardisation on a national level by introducing PAH 1, since Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm are also the makers of the liaison reconnaissance helicopter which has been ordered by the Army. PAH 1 is only a further development of the reconnaissance chopper. As a result, spare parts are interchangeable.

With it all, PAH 1 is not a "miracle weapon". As its designation indicates, the new chopper is only the first generation. The next generation, PAH 2, which is capable of attacking at night, is not expected to be ready until the mid-eighties. But it is now already certain that PAH 2, will be bought by the Bundeswehr.

Hartmut Palmer

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 11 May 1977)

Competition for city conservation

The competition "City-Shape and Monument Protection in City Planning" has begun in Baden-Württemberg and Schleswig-Holstein. Other states of the Federal Republic of Germany will join in.

The state winners of the competition will then compete again for a Federal prize in 1978. This dual competition, under the aegis of President Walter Scheel, is open to cities and municipalities which have done exemplary work in the preservation of historic monuments and the combination of city conservation and monument protection.

(Die Welt, 10 May 1977)

Architects call for new measures to save cities

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

No one want to take the blame, and the buck is still being passed. Spokesmen for Northrhine-Westphalia's Chamber of Architects pointed out at a press conference in connection with their Cologne Congress on "Old Cities in Europe" that they resent the accusation of having been co—responsible for turning our cities into eyesores.

The architects passed the buck to the municipalities, politicians and political parties, all of whom refused to listen to their demands in the past-war years.

They also pointed out that there was enough statistical material to disprove the contention of incompetence on their part. They mentioned that "only 20 per cent of all new buildings in Northrhine-Westphalia were put up by architects while the remaining 80 per cent were built by waterworks engineers, railroad engineers and members of similar professions."

Now that the cities have been mismanaged in the centres as well as on the peripheries, the architects have come forward with the demand: "Our cities must not be permitted to die bit by bit."

But Unesco was quicker on the draw with its 1975 Monument Protection Year under the slogan "A Future for our Past".

The construction boom of the fifties and sixties being over, the architects, too, are discovering their interest in old city and building rehabilitation.

It is by no means a coincidence that the architects asked for support from the German Unesco Commission which helped organise their Cologne Congress.

The Northrhine-Westphalian Chamber of Architects called at its Cologne Congress on the lawmakers to introduce the quickest possible measures.

They pointed to the urgent need for a law that would protect buildings and parts of cities worth preserving. Moreover, the architects specifically warned against "using residential areas of our cities for other purposes."

They also appealed to the Federal Government to take the municipalities into account within the framework of the new booster programme for the economy and to allocate funds for the renewal of cities as a whole as well as of individual buildings and for modernisation measures for entire areas.

Independent of the architects' initiatives, the Federal Government has now provided incentives for the preservation of old buildings by tax reforms favouring such preservation work.

These financial incentives, together with citizens' initiatives, have stopped the demolition squads and encouraged the bricklayers to pick up their trowels once more on behalf of old buildings.

Another thing that contributed towards the trend to preserve old buildings is the growing interest of young people in living in such houses. But restoration and, as a result of it, considerable rent increases in "old town areas" have radically changed the structure of the inhabitants — one of the unwelcome side effects of conservation.

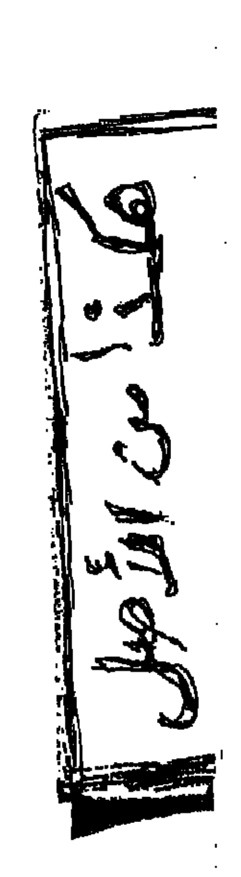
The Cologne Congress was attended by speakers from Poland, Italy and Holland. Their contributions were of particular value since their countries have done excellent work in saving the architecture of the past.

Werner Krüger

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 7 May 1977)

Mosque to be restored

Schwetzingen mosque near Stuttgart, was built in the Baroque style by an eighteenth-century German prince. The go-ahead has been given for restoration and consecration as an Islamic cultural centre, and Muslims in this country hope to raise the 800,000 deutschmarks required in donations. There are an estimated 10,000 faithful in the Schwetzingen area alone. (Photo: Josef Göllinger)



■ NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE

Bonn puts forward its own plan for integrated raw materials programme

After Bonn's poor performance at the Unctad conference in Nairobi, when officials from various West German Ministries failed to agree on ways and means of internationally regulating the supply and marketing of raw materials this country has now put forward a new unified concept for talks with the developing countries.

A two-day international conference summoned in Bonn by the Scientific Commission of the Catholic Work Group Development and Peace dealt with the subject "The Federal Republic of Germany's Raw Materials Policy after Unctad IV".

Although conference participants were reluctant to divulge the results of the discussions, certain points nevertheless became known.

Even though the organisers of the conference were loath to say so, i' nevertheless became clear that none oı the German participants favoured the Unctad concept of an integrated raw materials programme, notwithstanding the fact that groups which had advocated this concept until very recently and which had accused their opponents of "lacking political drive", were represented at the conference.

The problems inherent in Unctad became so clear in the course of the conference that ideological slogans remained totally inffectual.

Only the representatives of the Unctad Secretariat and the Algerian Ambassador accredited to Unctad in Geneva stuck to the arguments of the "Group 77", a loose and informal association of developing nations. But they, too, failed to come up with specific answers to specific questions.

The astutely debating Algerian never tired of stressing the political importance of the raw materials programme, but he failed to delve into such decisive problems as the determining of the "right" price for commodities (balanced price) or the question as to how huge commodities mountains can be prevented.

For him and his friends, the realisation of the Unctad concept remains a major political issue for the solution of which technical problems are of rather secondary importance.

It seems obvious that it is still believed in those quarters that unsolved problems can be steamrollered by massive financial injections.

In fact, the entire idea is considered a "magic formula" and none of its supporters are prepared to admit its steamroller character. As a result the process of talking at cross purposes, as in Nairobi and in Geneva, continued.

Within and even more so outside the conference hall it was possible to deduce the outline of Bonn's present raw materials concept. It is therefore just as well to say from the very beginning that all sectors of the Bonn administration (the Ministries for Economic Affairs, Finance and Agriculture as well as the Foreign Ministry) reject the Unctad concept.

Bonn maintains the view that the raw materials problem can be solved meaningfully only by methods and instruments which do not hamper the functioning of the commodity markets.

Bonn also adheres to Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's often propounded thesis that a realisation of the integrated programme would lead to interference from which only the countries rich in raw materials would profit while the have-nots would have to bear an even heavier burden than hitherto.

As a result, only a small number of developing nations would genuinely benefit and countries like the United States, Canada, Australia and the Soviet Union would make enormous profits.

Bonn's alternative has three major components:

- A world-wide system of export yield stabilisation;
- The conclusion of individual raw materials agreements in suitable cases;
- The establishment of a "common fund" which would serve as a clearing centre for individual raw materials agreements if these agreements provide for buffer stocks.

The central item of Bonn's proposal is a system of export yield stabilisation, the basic idea of which can best be summed up as follows: The gap between industrial and developing nations can only be bridged by a growing world economy.

The Third World must do everything in its power in order to mobilise and efficiently utilise its productive forces. In view of the global economic importance of the commodities sector, the stabilisation of raw materials yields is of paramount importance.

This form of yield stabilisation is far superior to the commodity price stabilisation envisaged by the Unctad system since it leaves market forces unhampered by not interfering with world market prices and the development of export yields.

As opposed to the Stabex system underlying the Lomé agreement between the EEC and the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific states) the envisaged system is not to be regionally limited, but applied world-wide. It provides for an initial list of 25 particularly important commodities which account for some 74 per cent of the total raw materials exports of the developing nations.

While the Stabex system provides for individual yield stabilisation for each product, the new concept would pivot on compensation in case the combined exports of a country's commodities contained in the list of raw materials drop below a certain level.

In order not to overburden the system by having to react to minor fluctuations on export yields the introduction of a "triggering threshold" is envisaged.

According to Bonn, the threshold figure should be 7.5 per cent, with 2.5 per cent for the poorest of the developing nations. Offset payments would — as a matter of principle — be made from a evolving fund in the form of credits with a maximum duration of between eight and ten years.

The interest rates would be noticeably below market rates and would be waived altogether in the case of the poorest countries.

In special cases (as for instance in case of natural disasters) a complete waiving of debts for the poorest countries can be considered. Even though it is not deemed realistic to impose stringent terms for credits, it is nevertheless expected of the debtors that they cooperate with the lender.

Based on British Government statistics for the period from 1963 to 1972, the German proposal is based on the assumption of yield shortages to the tune of 4,700 million dollars over a ten-year period and envisages an overall ceiling of 5,000 million dollars.

(The alternative model of yield stabilisation figures on the basis of each individual product and based on the same assumed figures would require a ceiling of 10,000 million dollars).

If only countries with a per capita annual income of up to 200 dollars were to be included in the system, a ceiling of 2,500 million dollars is deemed sufficient.

The necessary funds would have to be provided not only by the industrial nations and the oil-producing countries but also by the East bloc.

A mixed financing is to be proposed along the following lines: 50 per cent (non-refundable) government participation and 50 per cent capital market funds with government guarantees.

Since several compensation payments for the same drop in export yields is unwarranted, payments from the Stabex system and offset payments by the IMF should be taken into account.

The new system does not envisage the establishment of yet another institution, but would be handled by one of the existing international finance organisations.

This roughly sketched proposal by Bonn amounts to a liberalisation of the IMF system. It is therefore hard to understand why a new system and the IMF should operate simultaneously as envisaged by the plan.

It is rather startling that Bonn expects to be able to manage on a financing ceiling of 5,000 million dollars or 10,000 million dollars over a ten-year period — especially in view of the fact that in 1976 alone the developing nations utilised 1,700 million dollars under the IMF system of offset payments.

So far as the second item of the Bonn proposal is concerned, namely the conclusion of individual raw materials agreements, this is no more and no less than an overdue declaration of intent, the substance of which can only be assessed in the light of the industrial nations' future attitudes.

All individual decisions should be governed by the interests of the developing nations. Raw materials agreements can also be useful without set price margins inasmuch as they can contribute towards making the market more clearly defined and thus contribute towards stability.

Raw materials agreements with buffer stocks presuppose price clauses — although a price clause must not necessarily lead to the establishment of buffer stocks.

It is necessary to warn against overestimating the importance of common funds and their financial link with buffer stocks — and the same applies to economising possibilities this would bring about.

But if such a common fund fulfils more than just the function of a clearing house and if it is invested with financing functions and capital of its own, it can justifiably be called a "fund".

The French Fourcade plan tends in that direction, and the German attitude towards such a concept *is not entirely* negative.

Bonn rejects the Unctad concept of a common fund with management functions and direct and indirect possibilities of interfering in the policies of individual raw materials organisations.

But the Federal Republic has no fundamental objections to a fund with capital of its own and operating along the lines of a clearing house — especially if such a fund does not precede the establishment of buffer stocks, but comes after such stocks. This last point is of particular importance.

It remains questionable, however, whether a fund acting as a clearing house and equipped with capital of its own would not — at least indirectly — have to interfere in the policy of individual buffer stocks.

Similar to the common fund a la Unctad, such a fund, too, would be subject to decision-making processes for its credits, and such credits cannot be granted without specific criteria for each individual transaction and — perhaps — also not without a quota system. A certain similarity with the Unctad system is therefore evident.

The public hearing on the raw materials problem and the Development Policy Committee of the Bundestag, which is scheduled for the end of May, should bring some clarifications on this point.

It is surprising that the Bonn proposal omits to mention the problem of access to the markets of industrial nations — especially for finished and semi-finished products — which is of vital importance for the Third World.

If the developing nations are to diversify, and increasingly switch from producing raw materials only to processing they must have better access to the markets of industrial nations.

Otto Matzke

(Deutsche Zeitung, 6 May 1977)

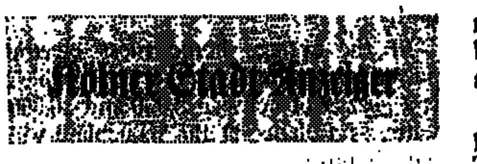
North-South problem: raw materials

Cocoa, Coffee, India rubber, Sisal, Jute, Bananas, Tin, Tea, Bauxite, Cotton, Manganese, Sugar, Phosphate, Copper, Oilseed, Beef, Iron ore, Vegetable oil

Exports by developing countries expressed as a percentage of world trade

■ CAR INDUSTRY

New models, strict economies, mean comeback for Volkswagen



The mammoth Volkswagen concern was lying flat on its face in the spring of 1974 and many doubted whether it would get back on its feet without help.

But in the two years that followed during which the concern as a whole reached an indebtedness of DM 1,000 million and the parent company close to 700 million, VW made a surprisingly quick recovery. The losses have been offset and stockholders will receive 10 per cent dividends ... Was all this luck or good management?

At VW's Wolfsburg headquarters, it was felt that this simply confirmed the old adage that God helps those who help themselves and that luck is on their side to boot.

As the Beetle era was running out, VW developed a new line of models which proved virtually faultless after a number of modifications.

To save costs, Volkswagen introduced stringent economising and streamlining measures while at the same time raising prices at regular intervals. It is this mixture that makes for VW's success.

But there was some luck, too. It came in the form of a long-lasting automobile boom. As a result of good domestic demand, the VW concern was in a position to offset some setbacks on foreign markets and stabilise overall turnover. Had demand been weaker, VW would have had to reduce costs still further if it was to achieve the same results.

The extent and the duration of the automobile comeback had one disadvantage for VW: Only a short while after the company had made high severance payments to induce staff members to quit, they had to employ new staff and work extra shifts.

But this is not such a major problem and has hit the competition in exactly the same way. The VW management, however, is particularly unhappy about its personnel planning since it was more susceptible to the resulting problems than its competitors due to the late start of the new models and the damage caused to VW's export business to America by the revaluation of the deutschmark.

Moreover, before the boom set in, Volkswagen had not only dismissed staff, but also reduced production capacities. Totally misinterpreting the situation, the former VW boss Rudolf Leiding had hired so much staff just before the recession came that the labour reached a peak level. Dismissals, therefore, had to be accordingly severe.

The declared business policy of Toni Schmücker at present is to count on medium-term secure sales and act accordingly.

This means that peak demand during boom times cannot be fully taken advantage of. But since the automobile business is likely to show fluctuations as a result of increasing market saturation and since this would not leave VW unscathed, the company decided to forgo a maximum turnover in the long run.

At the press conference given in connection with the presentation of the balance sheet, Toni Schmücker spoke of a "damn hard decision".

At present, VW's domestic plants produce 7,400 VWs and Audis per day. There is, however, sufficient demand for between 350 and 400 additional units.

Even without the mothballed assembly paint in Salzgitter, there is still a daily production capacity of 9,000 units.

But management is reluctant to employ too many people since it expects demand to drop next year. That is exactly the time when the US plant will begin churning out 500 cars per day.

But this in no way means that the Wolfsburg management has become so cautious as to just mark time. On the contrary, they seem to be getting up steam this year.

Volkswagen sold 314,000 cars in the Federal Republic of Germany in the first four months of this year. That is 26.4 per cent more than during the same period in 1976. And with its market share increase by a startling 3 per cent from 28 to 31 per cent, Opel and Ford were clearly left behind.

In the United States, too, VW seems to have come out of the trough. Turnover there rose by 9.7 per cent to 90,000 cars in the first four months of 1977, while on the West European markets sales rose by 16.2 per cent to 158,500 units.

Only in Brazil did VW suffer a setback; and the Mexican losses amounting to several hundred thousand millions due to the devaluation of the peso in 1976 have not yet been entirely made good.

Compared with last year (up 13 per cent at home and 2.6 per cent in Western Europe; down 27 per cent in the USA) this year's business is running smoother in all areas.

It would not be surprising if the Volkswagen concern were this year to exceed the relatively low increase of sales to dealers (up 5.1 per cent to 2.14 million units). What would be the effects on profits and dividends if this contingency were to arise?

Toni Schmücker, whose forecasts for 1976 lagged behind actual achievements, is now reluctant to permit himself to be pinned down.

But even so, he intimated that VW will pay 10 per cent dividends for 1977 as well — and that in the form of cash dividends which will be enhanced as a result of the corporate tax reforms. This means that actual dividends for 1977 will be higher than those for 1976.

Moreover, VW wants to do more to stock up reserves than in 1976 since there is no need to offset losses. Incidentally, the carrying forward of losses had its advantages on the tax front. Tax savings amounted to DM 300 million and without them profit on turnover would have been 2.8 instead of 4.6 per cent.

On the other hand, however, transfers to pensions funds from 1976 profits rose from DM 84 million to DM 575 million at the parent company and from DM 152 million to DM 680 million in the concern as a whole. A whacking sum of money that had to be earned.

Finance executive Thomée stressed that profits and liquidity were once more under control. With staff reduced by 7,000 to 180,000 the company nevertheless produced 200,000 cars more than in 1975, of which 60,000 were produced in 18 extra shifts. In 1977 VW intends to produce 40,000 extra cars in 12 extra shifts and to increase the average number of staff members.

Liquid funds rose from DM 1,400 million to DM 3,000 million. This is partly due to the fact that turnover yields increased faster than actual turnover in numerical terms as a result of heavy price increases.

1976: a record year for cars
Number of new private vehicles registered (in millions)

1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
2.11	2.15	2.14	2.03	1.69	2.11	2.31

Market share 1976 in %: Volkswagen 21, Opel 20, Daimler-Benz 9, Others 21, Ford 15, BMW 6, Audi NSU* 8
*including Audi 50

Sales thus achieved DM21,400 million and grew much faster than investments which were cut down by 21 per cent to DM1,140 million. Indebtedness dropped from 5.6 to 1.4 times the cash flow.

Even so, Schmücker is noticeably trying not to be too optimistic in depicting his company's situation. He points out that with its market share of 12 per cent (1976) VW occupies fourth place in Western Europe, inclusive of the Federal Republic, ranking slightly behind Fiat, Renault and Ford.

It seems evident that VW now wants to concentrate on the non-German part of Western Europe, where Japan is gaining ground noticeably.

Within the VW/Audi range, waiting times are longest for the diesel Rabbit, whose sales chances were underestimated.

Buyers have to wait for this car until early 1978. The present daily output of 350 units is to be doubled. The Beetle, of which 140 are still produced every day, takes second place. Output has been sold out until October/November. Incidentally, the Postal Authority and the Federal Railway System have placed large orders in order to restock their carparks.

Gerhard Meyenburg

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 3 May 1977)

Boom for car industry, but bosses sceptical



Although they deserve an A for effort, our automobile bosses still have not managed to "talk away" their good fortune.

As if they had to cover up for moral turpitude, VW chief Schmücker and his opposite numbers have for years deprecated their success, and they still refuse to believe that it will last, painting a disastrous picture of the future.

Granted, they burnt their fingers in the past. For decades they had been spoiled by virtually inexorable growth rates, until in 1974, came the rude awakening.

Negative economic influences, the structural problems of some companies (VW and Ford) and the campaigns of moralising politicians against the automobile started to mount. The legend of the big conspiracy of all against the nation's most important industry was born and retold time and again by the innocently ostracised.

But in 1975 the people joined ranks again with the besieged and a huge demand for automobiles has been filling the order books ever since.

And since the automobile industry had a rather heavy hand in price increases while at the same time producing much more efficiently (therefore more cheaply) the balance sheets reflect this state of affairs. The profits are truly remarkable — and that not only compared with the lean years.

But what do our executives do whose work has been so richly rewarded? Are they happy and optimistic? No, they decided to view the threat as permanent and the success as an interlude.

It could of course be said that this attitude is their own business. It could be argued: What do we care how an automobile executive feels ... let him be as pessimistic as he likes.

But must we really take this attitude? Our economic situation in this country is such as to permit various conclusions — positive and negative ones. Some branches of business are still struggling while others are doing splendidly.

But how are we to get the climate necessary for a genuine upswing when even those whose profits can no longer be talked away fail to provide any impulses? Can a man like Toni Schmücker, who, when asked why he invests so little with all that money in the till asks in return "What are we to do with the money?", still be called a businessman? Or has he become an administrator?

SPD ideologist Erhard Eppler has been resurrected as a motivator for self-inflicted injury. He has once more started campaigning against the energy waste caused by automobiles — although he himself drives a Mercedes. Like Jimmy Carter, he wants to penalise fuel-thirsty vehicles by heavier taxation and added petrol tax.

But only the big car drivers are to pay. The little fellow, says Eppler, will get his money back through income tax reduction so that he can buy as much petrol as before.

What a way to save!

Insufficiently thought out proposals by politicians could also be deemed to be their own business. But like the pessimism of businessmen, they, too, contribute towards a deteriorating climate. And once this bleak climate has had its effect on the economy, the automobile bosses will say: "Didn't we tell you so all along?"

Rainer [illegible]

(Die Zeit, 6 May 1977)

ENERGY

Too much power wasted in the home, says Ministerial report



How future energy requirements are to be met looks like proving such an intractable problem that energy conservation is very much in the news.

Nowadays machinery is specially designed with a view to fuel economy and houses are being built with better insulation. Yet there are other ways of saving substantial amounts of fuel and power here and now.

This is particularly true of the non-industrial sector (industrial management already being cost-conscious and keen to avoid unnecessary waste of energy).

Domestic consumers, on the other hand, not to mention shops, offices and local authorities, are still wasting fuel and power with careless abandon.

Disregarding the transport sector for a moment, these wastrels — as many of them are — account for roughly half the country's energy consumption, 43 per cent in 1974, for example.

Eighty-four per cent of this total goes on heating, ten per cent on hot water and a mere six per cent on lighting, household equipment, cooking and so on.

Many minor instances of wasted fuel and power mount up in the course of a year, yet could easily be forestalled, especially unwitting misuse of kitchen and household equipment.

A considerable number of "save it" hints are enumerated in a report on Repercussions of Technology and Its Use on Energy Consumption commissioned by the Ministry of Research and Technology.

The report was compiled by Dornier of Friedrichshafen, best known as aircraft manufacturers, and Fichtner of Stuttgart, a firm of consulting engineers.

Take washing machines, for instance. A boiling-water wash, rinse and dry will get through roughly 3.3 kilowatts regardless of the make of machine and regardless of the amount of washing in the tub.

So to wash nineteen kilograms of bed linen or whatever, you can either waste energy by running through two kilograms in nine separate washes or pack the lot into four machines with their full complement of 4.5 kilograms.

So you wonder whether it makes all that much difference? It depends which way you look at it. The difference in kilowatts is easily computed. Assuming your electricity costs fourteen pfennigs per kilowatt-hour you stand to save 2.30 deutschmarks. It may not be much, but it mounts up over the weeks and months.

You can also save roughly a kilowatt every time (and about a quarter of the running costs) by cutting out the pre-wash and the fourth and final rinse.

Machine-dried washing also comes cheaper when dried in a separate tub. Use a separate spin drier with a high rev count and the washing will dry faster because the tub is not bathed in damp left over from the washing and rinsing operations.

In 1973 an estimated 78 per cent of households in the Federal Republic owned an electric washing machine. Washing machines, in conjunction with ironing machines, spin and tumble driers, accounted for 6,350 million kilowatt-hours a year.

This consumption corresponds to the output of a 1,000-megawatt power station.

Washing the crockery after every meal is not unduly economic either. Let us assume the housewife washes up after her family of four have eaten breakfast, lunch and evening meal, lavishly using hot water in the process.

Cleanliness may be next to godliness, but this is an expensive way to go about it. Using electricity to heat the water our *Hausfrau* will get through 1,700 kilowatts a year.

Were she to use an electric dishwasher once a day she could cut power consumption on this score to 950 kilowatts a year, or as little as 670 kilowatts a year if she were prepared to rinse the crockery and cutlery after use but only use the dishwasher when it was full, say every other day.

In 1973 Stade, Obrigheim, Lingen and Grundremmingen nuclear power stations, with a combined installed capacity of 2,415 megawatts, between them generated roughly 15,000 gigawatt-hours of current.

That same year the country's twenty million refrigerators and deep freezers quietly consumed roughly 16,000 gigawatts of electric power.

So it is hard to disagree with the Ministry of Research and Technology's conclusion that savings which may, individually, be negligible, can make a surprising difference overall.

Refrigeration equipment is less expensive to operate when housed in a cold room, when the vanes are not iced up, when there is no automatic defroster and when food that has been left to cool is covered before insertion.

Three-star refrigerators are a costly compromise between a refrigerator and a deep freeze. It may save space to own a refrigerator with a really effective freezer compartment, but the extra cost is wasted if you already own a freezer.

Oddly enough, there is no difference in power consumption between a large refrigerator and a small one. So don't think you are going to save money in running costs by buying a five-cubic-foot refrigerator rather than a ten-cubic-foot model. You are not.

Freezers, on he other hand, are manufactured with motors and cooling systems more attuned to the size of the unit.

In the average home most electric power is consumed by the stove, which is a guzzler of between 8,000 and 10,000 watts, as a glance at the nameplate will quickly prove.

"If only one in three of the country's households were to switch on all their hotpoints and ovens simultaneously," the report notes, "the national grid would collapse under a power requirement of 70,000 megawatts which it just cannot meet."

If you make all the mistakes it is possible to make in cooking, such as using inefficient pots and pans and cooking food in pots without a lid, bringing too much water to the boil and using pans with a base that differs from the size of the hotpoint, then you are going to use between 33 and 55 per cent more electricity than you need do.

Experts claim this is the case in most households. Yet with just one kilowatt you have saved you can watch colour TV for hours, screen 2,400 metres of super-8 film, spin-dry 250 kilograms of washing, mow 2,000 square metres of lawn or use an electric shaver every morning for more than three years.

Anke Helzer

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 7 May 1977)

Bonn plans to spend DM 6,500 mill. on energy research

Atomic energy will continue to be a focal point of government research in the years ahead as outlined in Energy Research and Technology 1977—80, a policy document approved by the Bonn Cabinet on 27 April.

Hans Matthöfer, Minister of Research and Technology, noted, however, that expenditure on nuclear research will decline proportionately over the next few years.

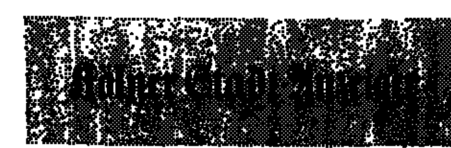
It will make way for more extensive research into energy conservation, more economic use of coal and the development of alternative energy sources, especially nuclear fusion and solar energy.

Over the next few years Bonn proposes to invest roughly 6,500 million deutschmarks in energy research, towards which the state governments will contribute 220 million deutschmarks.

Atomic energy will continue to account for the lion's share — 4,500 million DM, leaving 940 million marks towards research on coal and fossil fuels, 570 million marks on alternative energy sources and 490 million marks on energy conservation.

Unlike the United States this country intends to continue research into reprocessing spent fuel rods and developing the controversial fast breeder reactors.

America may have sufficient reserves



of raw materials to be able to forgo these options, but this country does not, Herr Matthöfer feels.

Fast breeder reactors generate fresh nuclear fuel in the form of plutonium, so by recycling conventional fuel rods from light-water reactors this country could, in theory, circumvent the need to import additional uranium for several hundred years, the Ministry claims.

In additional to fast breeders research into high-temperature reactors will also continue to be subsidised. Between the two they will account for 1,200 million deutschmarks between now and 1980.

Before new reactors are given planning permission safety and environmental considerations must be carefully examined, the policy document emphasises. Safety research will concentrate on reducing the pollution risk facing power station staff and local residents.

Nuclear fusion will account for the bulk of expenditure on alternative energy. Between now and the end of the decade Bonn plans to invest 400 million deutschmarks in thermonuclear fusion research.

Yet physicists are not expected to develop a feasible fusion reactor before the end of the century, and the 157 million deutschmarks earmarked for solar energy research seems modest in comparison.

Coal research will concentrate on gasification and liquefaction of a commodity with which this country is well endowed.

Hans Matthöfer feels that energy conservation will prove progressively more important. Research will concentrate on combining output of heat and power.

The Ministry will encourage the use of process heat from power stations to heat homes, shops and offices. It will also promote the development of heat pumps and heat exchange from effluent and coolant.

Wolfgang Mauersberg

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 28 April 1977)

■ CINEMA

Film industry in a sorry state, Frankfurt conference told



Last year forest fires swept the southern periphery , of the Lüneburg Heath. A wall of flame forty metres (130ft) tall destroyed 8,000 hectares (20,000 acres) of woodland.

There were scenes of horror not even the wealthiest Hollywood film studios could have afforded to reproduce, while officials grotesquely argued over who was responsible for what in the best slapstick traditions.

At the same time a team of Federal Republic film-makers were in the area on location, working on an intricate detective serial plot. The film-makers blithely ignored the forest fire drama, preferring to beaver away at their location schedule.

This really happened and Frankfurt film director Alexander Kluge took it as an example of the unrealistic attitude of film-makers in this country at the fourth Römerberg talks on the future of Federal Republic film-making.

It was, he claimed, a lamentable proof of the failure of film-makers in this country to come to terms with reality, evidence of unsatisfactory inflexibility and typical of the way in which film-makers aim at intellectual detachment rather than cater for what the cinema-going public want.

Some 200 film-makers converged on Frankfurt for the conference, which has become a regular gathering of representatives of the arts. This year's Römerberg conference had as its somewhat tear-jerking slogan "They are dealing the cinema a death's blow."

Hilmar Hoffmann, Frankfurt city council's man in charge of the arts, began by rattling off statistics that do not paint a very satisfactory picture of the situation in this country — at least as far as the film industry is concerned.

Not a country in the world spends more public money on the arts than the Federal Republic of Germany. Last year alone 1,200 million deutschmarks were spent on subsidies for the stage, opera, ballet and music, plus a further 250 million deutschmarks on museums and art galleries.

Yet local authorities invested a paltry ten millions deutschmarks in films. Films are the most effective mass medium of our era, yet politicians, certainly at local authority level, still seem to consider them somehow vulgar, commercial and market-place.

Several death's blow to the cinema were lambasted at the Frankfurt conference, but first and foremost the lack, for many years, of an official policy on films, followed by inadequate grants towards implementing the half-hearted policies eventually formulated.

Accusations were levelled by acknowledged experts such as Alexander Kluge, Alfred Andersch and Eberhard Fechner and the figures they quoted told a sad tale.

In 1955 domestic output accounted for 48 per cent of films screened in this country. A decade later its share of the market had slumped to 25 per cent. Last year the percentage was a pitiful seven.

Over the same period box office receipts have slumped just as alarmingly. In 1955 there were more than 800 millions cinema-goers in the Federal Republic. By 1965 their number had declined to 294 million, declining further to a mere 117 million last year.

For once, however, film-makers admitted that they had only themselves to blame. The sole exception was, perhaps, Werner Herzog, the director of



At the congress, from left, Alexander Kluge, Oskar Negt, Hilmar Hoffmann, and Volker Schlöndorff (Photo: Barbara Klemm)

Kaspar Hauser and *Herz aus Glas*, who sounded an alarmingly euphoric note with his visions of a new wave, the first, he felt, to be of international significance since the German films of the twenties.

Other film-makers were perfectly willing to beat their breasts. The sorry state of the film industry in this country, they agreed, is due less to shortage of cash or pressure of one kind or another than to a lack of home-grown talent.

What is more, Germans today still lack self-confidence. They are still unable to relate to their own history. This has tended to make domestic film outout both anaemic and academic.

France and Italy have readily delved into their own history for subject matter, whereas this country lacks a national orientation. A film such as Bertolucci's *1900*, a summary of Italian history, is inconceivable in this country.

Everyone agreed that mistakes have been made at each and every stage of the proceedings. German films really were first-rate in the twenties, seemed to be so in the thirties, but had descended to disaster level by the fifties.

They edged precariously along a tightrope trying to reconcile artistic pretensions and the need to succeed commercially, threatened by Hollywood, by TV, by shortsighted distributors and by the failure of subsidies to materialise.

The Oberhausen Manifesto in 1962 purported to herald a new wave, but it soon petered out. Established directors mostly went over to TV, while the youngsters split, some retreating to non-committal, aesthetic ivory towers, unperturbed by the general public and contenting themselves with congratulating each other.

The other side of the schism was the agitprop brigade, breathing fires of social commitment and intent on informing and educating the cinemagoer to the possible exclusion of *entertainment*. At all events, the viewing public voted with their feet and stayed away in droves.

Initial success did not start to arrive on the scene until both camps had come out of their corners, the modest benefits of the Film Promotion Act came into their own and film-makers began to come to terms with the need to strike a balance between the role of the film and the requirements of both art and box office.

But the lean years are not yet over by any stretch of the imagination. It will be years before a film industry with any serious artistic pretensions has re-established itself in this country.

At one stage the difficulty was that of animating the photograph. Nowadays it is teaching a general public stupefied by TV to take a fresh look at what they are offered.

Communal cinema is a partner of the commercial cinema, not a competitor. It deserves all the support and recognition it can get. Hanover, for instance, is a good example of a city where people who go along to the communal cinema find their appetites whetted for the conventional, commercial variety.

Films must also be taken seriously because they project the country's cultural image abroad, more so than any other medium. It is an established fact that commercial exports give rise to interest in a country's artistic output.

Films most readily project their country of origin, so there is doubtless more than a grain of truth in the point made by Volker Schlöndorff.

"It may be slightly exaggering the case," the director of *Young Törless* and *Katharina Blum* said, " but you could say that every car manufactured for export ought to have a film from this country thrown in as part of the bargain."

Uta Gold

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 6 May 1977)

Fassbinder film festival in New York

Can Fassbinder break the box office barrier?" Andrew Sarris wondered last November in the New York *Village Voice*. As far as New York is concerned the answer is an unqualified affirmative.

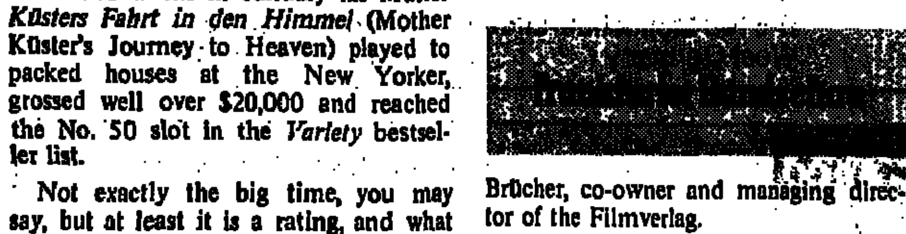
For two weeks in January his *Mutter Küsters Fahrt in den Himmel* (Mother Küster's Journey to Heaven) played to packed houses at the New Yorker, grossed well over $20,000 and reached the No. 50 slot in the *Variety* bestseller list.

Not exactly the big time, you may say, but at least it is a rating, and what is more, it is the best rating a solely Federal Republic production has achieved for some time.

Rainer Werner Fassbinder's success is no freak either, but the result of planning and hard work. Filmverlag der Autoren, Munich, has for years been in touch with New York distributor Dan Talbot.

Fassbinder's films have regularly been shown at a variety of film festivals in the United States, followed by short seasons in New York cinemas. Some did fairly well, but stayed within the modest commercial expectations.

"With the passage of time we have come to realise that these one-off arrangements are insufficient," says Klaus



Brücher, co-owner and managing director of the Filmverlag.

"What is more, there are plenty of Fassbinder films available, so we decided on a retrospective to be held in the New Yorker, which seats 900.

"Thirteen Fassbinder films are being shown in succession, each for as long as warranted by box office returns. *Mutter Küster* is now in its third week and there are still a dozen films to go.

"I feel, incidentally, that a venture of this kind will not benefit Fassbinder alone. All films from this country stand to benefit. Take Hans W. Geissendörfer's *Wild Duck*, which is due to open at the 68th Street Playhouse shortly.

"*Wild Duck*, by the way, is the first film of which we have ever had to send the negative across the Atlantic. The distributors reckon they are going to have to run off at least fifteen copies. A year ago that would have been both impossible and inconceivable."

This year not only films from this country, but films from Europe in general seem to stand a better chance than ever of making the grade with the US cinemagoer.

"Credit is due," says Brücher, "not to us, but to a newer, younger generation of US cinemagoers. They do not share the prejudices of their elders. They have more open minds. The people who queued 300 yards to see *Mutter Küster* were all thirtyish."

It remains to be seen whether what is true of New York will be true of the United States as a whole, but the New York Fassbinder festival is an achievement nonetheless because it was arranged without the backing of a national export corporation.

Fassbinder has now even received offers from Hollywood to direct there.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 3 May 1977)

■ SOCIOLOGY

Juvenile delinquency discussed at special conference in Mainz



Not long ago the seventeen-year-old son of an attorney-general turned out to be the boss of a gang deeply involved in organised crime.

Stranger things can happen, you may say, yet this seventeen-year-old boy was an exemplary student, top of his class and never for a moment suspected by anyone of being the black sheep of the family.

This teenager who led a perfect double life was mentioned at a Mainz conference on crime among young people.

In papers read by specialists and discussions among people more concerned with the practical repercussions of juvenile delinquency it swiftly transpired that the phenomenon is more complex than is generally assumed.

In other words, hackneyed cliches and time-honoured assumptions must be set aside if you want to gain a deeper insight into patterns of teenage crime.

Let us start with the statistics, and an alarming tale they tell! In 1975 one suspect in four was under twenty. In a number of cities juvenile delinquency increased by a quarter last year.

One person in three in the country as a whole has a criminal record by the time he or she is 24, says Mainz criminologist Professor Armand Mergen.

Criminal records, he adds, shed more light on the cops than on the robbers. It is an open secret than many police departments are so understaffed that they have taken to cooking their books in order to bring pressure to bear on the authorities.

But let us look at another old friend from the realm of statistics, the rule of thumb according to which eight out of ten inmates of youth penitentiaries are destined for a lifetime of crime.

This is apparently not true of the 5,500 men and 160 women in the twenty youth penitentiaries in this country. Professor Böhm, another criminologist, has an entirely different set of statistics about graduates of the universities of crime.

Roughly one in three, he claims, will indeed be criminals for the rest of their lives, while a further third may occasionally fall foul of the law without warranting the epithet criminal.

But the remaining third will go straight for the rest of their lives, which at times seems little short of a miracle in view of their origins, education and upbringing, Professor Böhm reckons.

"Prison conditions are definitely not the prime factor, although in fact prison has improved considerably in recent years," the professor notes. "More often than not credit is due to the girl a young offender gets to know outside."

Social and domestic circumstances, difficulties at home, upbringing in a children's home and problems at school have all long been known to exercise what the sociologists call a "criminogenous" influence on young people.

Professor Mergen and Böhm sound a warning note against theories that offer inordinately straighforward explanations. Both men claim that theories which have been abandoned in the United States for ten or twenty years are still faithfully espoused in this country.

Fresh conclusions have been reached on this side of the Atlantic too. Economic conditions *per se* are not what induces a juvenile to turn to crime. Changes in circumstances are what spell danger.

If you grow up poor and then manage to achieve a modicum of affluence, you are going to find it very hard indeed to tighten your belt a notch or two because of, say, unemployment.

The environment in which young people are most prone to turn to crime is a continually changing one, an unstable succession of ups and downs and changing circumstances.

Where does normal development end and the criminal inclination come to light? Nearly every speaker at the Mainz conference referred to an intermediate zone between what is permitted and what is prohibited.

Crucial psychological importance attaches to the first time an offender is caught and brought to justice. Professor Mergen reckons the first police interrogation can mark a turning-point.

"Being caught marks the end of a dream, the end of a feeling of almost magic power and inviolability." If the police officer questioning the youngster seems to classify him or her as a serious offender, the first-timer may end up not only feeling a criminal, but also behaving like one for the rest of his or her life.

Psychologist Günther Schmidt on the other hand feels first offences can be overrated. No clear link can be established, he maintains, between first offences — even serious ones — by juveniles under fourteen years of age and a subsequent criminal career.

Children can only be considered well on their way to a lifetime of crime when they have several offences on record.

Juvenile courts and conditions of imprisonment come in for criticism. Professor Mergen is far from happy with a state of affairs in which psychologists are required to summarise in depth their assessment of the character of the youngster in the dock.

This assessment is outlined in detail before an open court with not only the general public, but also the youngster in question in attendance.

The effect on the youngster could well prove traumatic. As it is, psychologists frequently resort to specialised terminology in order not to spell out the intimate details in words of one syllable.

Professor Böhm, on the other hand, wonders whether courts might not have grown too reluctant to commit youngsters to prison.

At present only seven per cent of convicted youngsters are actually sent down; the remainder get away with fines and similar sentences of a minor nature.

The upshot is that youngsters who are sentenced to imprisonment nowadays are a really bad lot. More and more prison staff are needed to keep an eye on fewer and fewer juvenile offenders — a fact which the general public find hard to credit.

Professor Böhm also takes a dim view of the new Prisons Act and its stated objective of making conditions "inside" as similar as possible to those outside.

"There could hardly be a more inappropriate objective," he ays. "Most inmates can hardly be said to have behaved in a social way outside. Help is what they need."

Professor Böhm is in favour of longer sentences accompanied by more intensive care. Educational facilities provided in prison should not be modelled on the state system; instructors should recall the advantages of smaller units such as the tiny country schools of yesteryear.

Prisoners ought not to have their lives inside made too easy, the professor continues. If a prisoner smashes his cell window he should be left to freeze for a while.

What never ceases to amaze him in a far from pleasant way in the habit of prison inmates of queueing up in front of closed doors to wait for them to be opened — regardless whether or not they are locked.

He sometimes feels that inmates feel at home inside. He once asked a gipsy boy why he was always whistling cheerfully in prison. Without hesitation the boy answered:

"In the outside world I was always afraid of the Devil. Here the windows are barred, so he cannot get in."

Joachim Neander

(Die Welt, 5 May 1977)

Two children discover 'Good Samaritans' are few and far between

Uta, a twelve-year-old girl, and Tilman, her eleven-year-old brother, wondered during the school holidays what it would be like if they were left to their own devices in the big city and had to rely on such assistance as random grown-ups were prepared to lend.

How would adults react, they wondered, if they were asked the way to some destination or other or asked for money or other assistance because the children had hurt themselves or did not feel happy?

Uta and Tilman conducted a systematic survey, testing the readiness to help of 1,800 adults in six different trials. For nearly three months they wandered round Kiel city centre with cassette tape recorder in their school satchels.

In the course of three months they were, in fact, out and about interviewing unsuspecting adults on about forty separate occasions.

The results of their survey earned them first prize in an annual competition held to spot the most original research ideas on which young people have worked.

But in retrospect the children can count themselves lucky they were not in the tight corners they pretended to be, since the grown-ups they approached were not, on the whole, much help.

The first trial was fairly successful. The two children asked strangers the way. Only one of the 68 adults questioned refused to help them.

Grown-ups proved distinctly less enthusiastic about the next two requests — to change silver into coppers so the children could ring up home and to help them find their ostensible destination on a map of the city.

Thirteen of the 135 adults asked to help in one or other of these two ways refused to do so.

The response was still less enthusiastic when it came to a request for coppers to make the phone call:

"Excuse me," the two children asked, "I have lost my purse and would like to phone my parents so they can come and collect me. Would you give me twenty pfennigs please?"

Many interviewees refused point blank. Others said they had no small change or did not believe the children. "You can't fool me, I have two kids of my own."

Twenty-six of 78 adults proved so tightfisted, as the recorded interviews showed, that they were not even prepared to part with the cost of a phone call.

Tilman was so upset by the insulting attitude of so many grown-ups that he was on the point of abandoning the entire experiment.

But the last two tests proved even more discouraging. Uta and Tilman took turns at leaning against a wall bent double and screaming in pain.

"We were unable to keep it up for more than five minutes at a time. It was such hard work that we really felt ill afterwards," they said.

But scream as they might, passers-by paid little attention to them. Eight of 1,507 passers-by asked Uta what was the matter and only four troubled to asked her younger brother whether anything was wrong.

Six times as many just took a quick look at the children and then hurried on unconcerned.

All told the result of the experiment

Continued on page 12

■ MEDICINE

Surgeons vote for new self-control programme at Munich conference

The 94th Congress of Surgeons in Munich marked a remarkable change in surgeons' attitudes towards the public as a whole and towards the individual patient.

This year's chairman, Professor Wolfgang Schega of Krefeld, pointed out in his opening speech that the profession as a whole wanted to justify the public's faith by information, the best possible training and strictest self-control, thus providing the patient with optimal medical care.

The participants in the congress rallied around their chairman and voted unanimously in favour of a voluntary self-control programme.

The president of the Surgeons' Association, Dr Wolfgang Müller-Osten of Hamburg, stressed that such a quality control should come into effect in the foreseeable future. Dr Müller-Osten read a paper on safety in surgical wards.

According to him, safety in surgery was largely jeopardised by "excessive demands and expectations bred into the public as well as by the necessity to economise."

He stressed that surgeons should combat this attitude by stepped up PR work and information of the public.

But apart from such broad information work, it will also be necessary for the surgeons to engage in analysis of themselves and their work.

The president of the Surgeons' Association characterised the measures necessary to ensure the quality of surgical work as follows: A strategy of therapy on the broad basis of rapidly changing scientific insights and an adaptable coordination of the follow-up treatment — as for instance in the case of certain types of cancer requiring surgery — will benefit all concerned.

Moreover, an analysis of mishaps by means of systematic research into the causes of surgical mistakes will greatly contribute towards eliminating them.

Furthermore, it will be helpful to promote a greater awareness of the problems involved — especially in connection with legal questions concerning the safety of surgical work.

Another aspect that could greatly contribute towards safer surgery is labour medicine and the information it can provide on the maximum stesses to which a surgeon should be exposed as well as the best time of day for surgery.

Dr Müller-Osten's ideas concerning voluntary and systematic self-control in surgical work have been accepted as a programme to be implemented step by step.

The difficulties in realising such a programme are particularly great since there are very few models available in other countries.

The many initial problems in introducing medial quality controls in the United States were discussed by experts in the course of a seminar held in Boston in late 1975.

Somewhat more practical information is available from Holland where a foundation for medical documentation in Utrecht evaluates — on a voluntary basis — data supplied by major Dutch hospitals. A comparison of the data gathered from 90 per cent of Dutch hospital patients provides the basis for quality control in surgical work.

There are initially two projects of such a nature to be started in the Federal Republic of Germany. A number of surgical university clinics and surgery departments of hospitals in Hesse will take part in a pilot study.

The Frankfurt Surgeons' Association is already collecting material on four selected ailments requiring surgical treatment. This material is to provide empirical information about the methods of therapy and the success achieved by such methods.

Bavarian surgeons ppproved virtually unanimously another project — also aimed at providing quality control — which will be fashioned after the Dutch *Concilium chirurgicum*.

The aim of this project is to secure the quality of surgical work — including training — on the basis of voluntary cooperation. This is to be supervised by a committee of renowned retired surgeons who will visit operating theatres and carry out checks periodically.

Dr Müller-Osten pointed out to his colleagues that state intervention in the United States was ample evidence of the present trend. Surgeons, he said, would be well advised to promote a voluntary initiative for their own good and for the good of their patients.

The Munich lawyer Walter Weisauer recommended step by step information for patients. Basic information should, according to him, be provided by a brochure describing the most important risks.

Moreover, the patient should be informed in such a manner as to enable him to obtain additional information by asking specific questions.

This is obviously not meant to take the place of an informative consultation with the doctor.

In conversation with his patient, the doctor should then delve deeper into the specific circumstances of the case.

At the end of such a discussion, the patient should be asked "clearly and unmistakeably" to decide whether he is satisfied with the information provided or whether he would like to ask further questions.

How feasible such step by step information for the patient will be in practice remains to be seen. In many instances, pressure of time, routine and lack of interest as well as the doctor's unsympathetic attitude might prove the undoing of this kind of virtually perfect information.

Towards the end of the congress, the Hamburg surgeon Professor H.W. Schreiber said that it must be the declared aim of the surgeon to "view Man in the context of human society."

There are times, he said, when the patient cannot "accept his illness", but considers it "a failure on the part of society." The problems thus caused demand of the surgeon that he delve deeper into the personality and the environment of the patient.

And this must not be "abstract", but must be done in connection with the decision whether or not to operate. Serious surgery affects not only the patient, but his social environment as well.

This could lad to counter-indications which are not entirely rooted in the patient himself. In other words, the patient must not be permitted to remain a "social iceberg phenomenon."

The anthropological and social foundation of the surgeon's action will entail more work for him.

Professor Schreiber pointed out that the wider a surgeon's horizon becomes due to new dimensions the more do the one-sided and fallacious concepts of total specialisation pale.

Under these circumstances, Professor Schreiber considers the key question whether the surgeon of the future will be more a technician than a doctor an anachronism.

The changing mood among surgeons is perhaps best demonstrated by the following axiomatic statement by Professor Schreiber: "The expansion of natural sciences has temporarily embarrassed philosophy. But in future, too, only philosophy will provide the yardsticks of medical ethics and medicine's position in law. This reality is frequently overlooked."

It seems that Professor Schreiber has provided not only his fellow surgeons, but also some of their critics, with food for thought.

Wilhelm Girstenbrey

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 3 May 1977)

Children find few 'Good Samaritans'

Continued from page 11

greatly disappointed the two children. They certainly put the adults to shame. The more urgently children need help, the less willing adults are to provide it.

Let no one claim that cruelty to children is a mere catchphrase. Children may be thrashed within an inch of their lives but this is merely the top of the iceberg of an unsatisfactory relationship between children and adults, the weak and the strong.

An increasing number of children are killed and injured in traffic. An increasing number of children are suffering from behavioural disturbances and unable to cope with growing demands made on them by their environment.

Neither psychological nor educational assistance are forthcoming. Conditions at school, for instance, are increasingly unsatisfactory, not to say a rat race.

Society is unkindly disposed towards children in other small but significant matters too. How many restaurants in this country have high chairs for toddlers? In the United States, for instance, they are a matter of course.

How often, for that matter, are parents seen hurrying along dragging their children behind them. If the children are unable to keep up the pace do the grown-ups stop to give them a encouraging word? Not they' More often than not all the encouragement the children are given is a box on he ears.

Then there are everyday occurrences such as the situations with which Uta and Tilman experimented. The overall impression is far from satisfactory. Adults have a lot to learn.

Margrit Gersle

(Die Zeit, 6 May 1977)

2,400 specialists at West Berlin perinatal congress

Infant mortality rate is an important yardstick for the standard of obstetrics. In the Federal Republic of Germany, infant mortality has dropped from 2.3 to about 2 per cent in the period from 1970 to 1976; but even so, it is still about one per cent higher than in the Scandinavian countries.

Professor Saling, the founder of perinatal medicine, who chaired the 8th German Congress of Perinatal Medicine in West Berlin emphasised these facts in a press interview.

The congress was the largest of its kind in the world, having been attended by some 2,400 specialists. A salient feature of the meeting lay in the fact that virtually all fields of medicine were touched upon in one form or another.

As a result, perinatal medicine can be viewed as a model of inter-disciplinary cooperation in medicine, aimed at reducing the frequency of illness and mortality.

Professor Dawes, Oxford, reported on the value of monitoring the breathing of unborn babies in the womb. This method, which he developed two years ago, is inteded to provide more information about the foetus (the embryo after the third month) than was hitherto obtainable.

One of the discussion topics at the congress dealt with the harmful effects of abortion on future pregnancies and ways and means of preventing this by better abortion techniques.

As Professor Kirchhoff, Göttingen, pointed out, an enlargement of the mouth of the womb could *promote miscarriages* in subsequent pregnancies. Another side effect of abortion can be infertility.

Professor Lehfeldt, New York, advocated the establishment of special clinics for abortions. He pointed out that such clinics had already proved their worth in the United States and in Austria.

Another discussion revolved around the danger arising for the embryo or foetus from drugs taken during pregnancy.

As Professor Saling pointed out, these harmful effects are still largely unexplored, and what we do know about them is insufficient to enable us to come up with sensible recommendations.

Professor Saling went on to say that since the sensitivity of the embryo differs in various phases of development extreme caution in prescribing drugs for mothers-to-be is called for although this must not take the form of a "medication phobia."

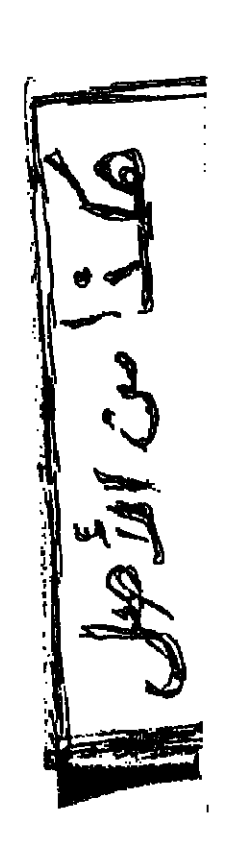
Professor Saling drew attention to the shortcomings that still exist in this country with regard to the transfer of a child from the obstetric ward to the paediatric clinic. He recommended the establishment of special centres at paediatric clinics for just this type of case.

Since lung complications still number among the most prevalent dangers for the newly-born — especially in the case of underweight babies — the greatest of importance must be attributed to the possibility of establishing the degree of lung maturity in the infant.

Many children who die in the perinatal phase do so as a result of a lung defect. It is therefore of paramount importance to diagnose the condition of the lung — especially since this can have a major bearing on a subsequent pharmaceutic therapy in the womb.

Hans Lesser

(Der Tagesspiegel, 5 May 1977)



■ TERRORISM

'Our brains the best weapon', say men who guard the VIPs

The scene: The black limousine with the State President moves along the driveway to Bonn's Hotel Petersberg. On a curve, a car drives up with a menacing submachine gun resting on the open window and ready to start spewing death.

But before the would-be assassins have managed to come alongside, the car with the bodyguards pushes them into the ditch.

The scene is perfectly realistic and everything is true to life except for the President and the assassins. They are security officers of the Security Group (SG) of the Federal Office of Criminal Investigation. The whole thing is part of a practice session of the "bodyguards school" of SG.

Following the assassination recently by terrorists of Chief Federal Prosecutor Siegfried Buback (whose protection, incidentally, did not lie in the province of SG) the subject "attacks from moving automobiles and motorcycles" has assumed a very concrete dimension in the training programme of the security men.

Much has changed for the Bonn bodyguards since the murder of Buback and the announcement by the terrorists that other assassinations are to follow.

Hardly any of the prominent wards of the SG bodyguards would dream of rejecting their "shadows". The formerly irksome tail has suddenly turned into a welcome life insurance for the "client".

Says one of the bodyguards: "The drawback is only that the Buback case has driven it home to our wives how real the danger is to which we are exposed in this job. These days, when my wife says to me 'Be careful' as I leave the house there is a distinct undertone in her voice."

The man who said this is Heinz B., 29, a CID officer, married, with one child, trim and fit — and a member of SG for the past three years.

Most of the bodyguards are in their thirties and their police rank is in the middle echelon. Virtually all are high-school graduates and speak two or three foreign languages. Most are married.

Says Günther Scheicher, 49, the head of SG: "We particularly like married men because they are well balanced and won't take unnecessary risks." This statement is borne out by Heinz B. who says that "my wife's worries make me more alert while on duty."

Although he could have done so, Heinz B. did not ask for a transfer after the Buback incident. In fact, SG boss Scheicher received not a single transfer application.

Says Heinz B.: "When they married a cop, our wives knew that we had to take certain risks. But one shouldn't overestimate the danger. It is more likely that we might get hurt in a car accident than in a shoot-out." Heinz B. thus made it clear that terrorist threats have not cowed the bodyguards.

How does one become a Bonn bodyguard? Every officer of the Federal Office of Criminal Investigation has to serve in all departments, and this includes SG. Usually they stay with SG for about five years and then go on to hunting dope peddlers, spies and major criminals. But many of the officers also volunteer for SG duty.

Considering their average monthly salaries of between DM 2,000 to 3,000 gross, it is hard to understand what lures them to this task. As one of them put it, "We want to be there when history is made and rub shoulders with the great."

Those who join SG get to know the world, and the state foots the bill… yesterday with President Scheel in Peking… today with Foreign Minister Genscher in New Delhi… and tomorrow with Chancellor Schmidt in London… that makes up for a lot of hardships. There is, of course, the other side, when one is unable to take off one's shoes for a week.

The whole thing begins with an intensive four-week course at the "bodyguard school". This includes lessons in unarmed combat, special driving lessons and training in the detection of dangerous situations.

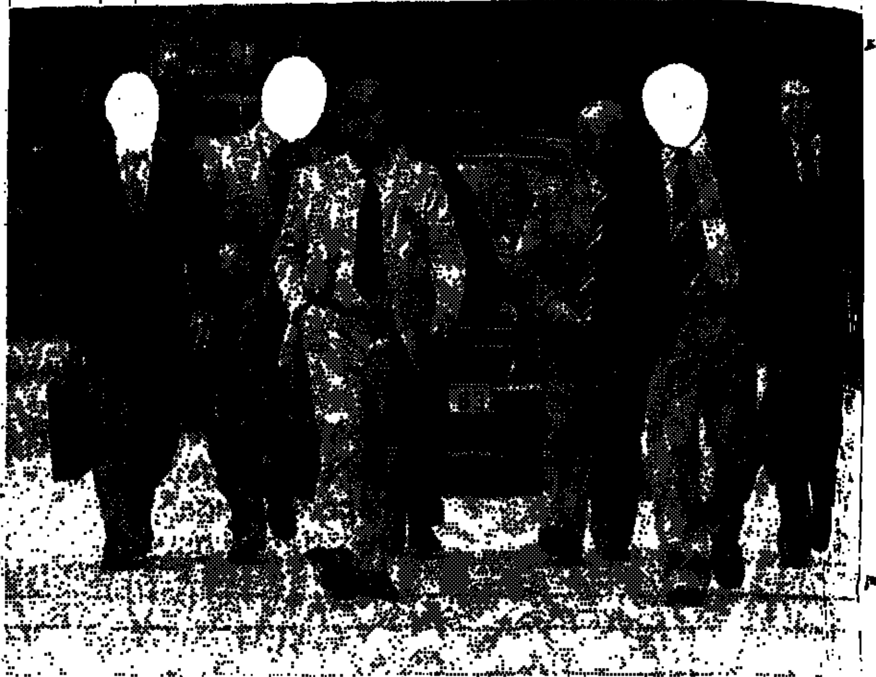
As part of the practical training in front of the now disused Hotel Petersberg, the officers learn the formation in which they must drive in front of and behind their charges in order not to give would-be assassins a sitting-duck target.

They also learn that, should the contingency arise, they will have to catch with their own bodies the bullets destined for their charges.

Says Günther Scheicher who, in the course of his career, nabbed the men who stole the Sidewinder rocket, arrested Andreas Baader and hunted down Arab terrorists: "If the only way of saving our man is to stop the bullet with his name on it, we must do so."

Every SG bodyguard has weekly target practice, using up about two magazines at a time. Last year this amounted to 170,000 rounds of ammunition.

They practise shooting at night and firing out of a moving car. But none of



Bodyguards escort Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, Chancellery chief Manfred Schüler and Government spokesman Klaus Bölling (Photo: Sven Simon)

these men have as yet had to make use of their weapons in earnest.

As SG boss Scheicher put it: "Once we have to make use of our guns it is usually too late. The art lies in defusing a situation before it becomes really dangerous, and the best way of doing so is to use one's little grey cells."

Specialised bodyguard psychology is also part of the training. After all, the men (and, as of late, the first of five women) have to follow their charges wherever they go. This calls for a certain amount of tact.

Officer Abraham, for instance, has to swim alongside or behind Foreign Minister Genscher in a swimming pool and Officer Schmitt hovers around Chancellor Schmidt on the shores of Brahm-see, while Officer Stork mountaineers along with President Scheel in the Alps.

The SG is in charge of the direct personal security of the Federal Republic's top officials and the protection of the offices and residences of the Federal President and the Cabinet Members as well as their foreign visitors.

Judges, public prosecutors, Federal state politicians and diplomats are at present protected by a 3,500-man police force of the various states.

The specific charges of SG are the Federal President, 37 members of the Federal Government, 518 MPs and the Constitutional Court Judges — a total of some 600 people.

For this task SG has about 400 officers at present. Another 100 are kept in reserve and can be made available within an hour if need be. The Federal Border Guards can provide another 100 men who were trained "on spec".

It is thus obvious that the staff does not suffice to protect its 600 charges round-the-clock. Says SG boss Scheicher: "We play it by ear, depending on the degree of danger.

"There are times when we guard few people around-the-clock and there are times when we look after 80."

What worries the officers most at present is the tide of threatening letters and telephone calls to prominent citizens. The trouble is that no one knows whether these threats in the name of "Action Group Ulrike Meinhof" etc. are just hoax calls or whether they must be taken seriously.

All information is constantly sifted, evaluated and, when necessary, acted upon.

There is, for instance, such action as "defensive observation" where officers check at irregular intervals the immediate environment of an endangered politician, looking for anything suspicious… and there is also the so-called "leap commando" whose task it is to confuse potential assassins by one day guarding a politician with one man only and the next day with a ten-man force. This makes it virtually impossible for would-be assassins to plan any action.

And yet, more and more people are heard saying "gorillas are no good against guerrilleros" — especially since the Buback shooting. There is no such thing as absolute protection against a determined assassin.

Says Günther Scheicher: "The danger from assassins is of a different nature than that from road traffic. The executive branch must be able to do its work free from interference. So far none of our charges have been harmed in any way. But we cannot prove that this is due to our work and that we have deterred the assassins by our presence — and this is where we are handicapped."

Horst Zimmermann

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 7 May 1977)

Four terrorist groups on 'wanted' list

In the night from 2 to 3 April 1968 — exactly at midnight — bomb explosions tore through two Frankfurt department stores. For the first time in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany, radical reformers of our system had switched over to unadulterated violence in the pursuit of their aims.

Since then they have left 20 dead and 90 injured in their bloody wake — victims of arson, bomb attacks, murder and hostage-taking. Their trail extends all the way to the Buback murder and the terrorist-police shoot-out in Singen.

Two years after the fight against terrorism brought about the establishment by the Government of the Department TE (for terrorism) the police can look back on some success — the latest being the arrest of the alleged Buback murderer Günter Sonnenberg and the woman terrorist Verena Becker, as well as the nabbing of the ex-lawyer and anarchist leader Siegfried Haag — but it has failed to eliminate terrorism.

This is not due to the inability of the men whose task it is to hunt down the terrorists. On the contrary, the 200 specialists of the Department TE rank among the world's top crime-busters.

Nor is it due to inadequate technical equipment. The equipment of the Federal Office of Criminal Investigation enjoys a world-wide reputation and more and more experts from far-flung corners come to the Wiesbaden headquarters to admire the gadgetry.

The reason why this country 400 to 500 terrorists (the figures are provided by Dr Horst Herold, President of the Federal Office of Criminal Investigation) are likely to pose a problem for many years to come, is their guerrilla system which makes it almost impossible for a constitutional state with personal freedoms to combat.

The terrorist front is hard to see as a whole. In the past few months alone, four terrorist groups operating in the Federal Republic of Germany were identified by the Department TE.

They are the so-called "Revolutionary Cells", the "Group Haag", plus action groups named "Commando Ulrike Meinhof" (Buback assassination) and "Command Holger Meins".

But it is unknown whether there is an autonomous group operating behind each name or whether, as Department TE surmises, "these groups exist only in name and consist of the same people, with the names intended to confuse the police."

The police is supported in its day-to-day routine work and, above all, in

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major search actions by optimal technical equipment such as the electronic "dactyloscopy", a unique instrument on a computer basis which contains finger prints of 1.7 million criminals which it can compare and identify in a split second.

And there is — although still in the experimental stage — the computer programme dubbed "crimes in quest of their perpetrators" which contains data of some selected areas of crime such as robbery, blackmail, hostage-taking and passing of bad chagues with characteristic traits of both crime and criminal, thus enabling the police to match crime and perpetrator in future cases.

Another important piece of equipment is an electronic microscope able to provide indisputable evidence against terrorists even when all other modern means have failed.

This microscope not only provides 50,000-fold enlargements, but also detects traces of explosives and other materials 0.5 mm below the surface (conventional light microscopes penetrate only 1,000th of a millimetre).

Says Dr Horst Herold: "Even if a car transported only the tiniest quantity of explosives or narcotics we can still prove this after any period of time."

Walter Gutermuth

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 5 May 1977)

■ SPORT

Sports clubs attract mainly the better-off, sociologists find



Sports clubs are the preserve of the middle and upper classes, Karlsruhe sociologists Karl Schlagenhauf and Waldemar Timm claim. Lower socio-economic categories are under-represented among paid-up members, women in particular.

They are co-authors of a survey entitled *Sociology of Sports Clubs* which was commissioned by Deutscher Sport-Bund (DSB), the Federal Republic Sports League representing fourteen million members of affiliated clubs, and financed by the Federal Sports Institute, Cologne.

This survey, the first of its kind in the Federal Republic, is a two-volume venture, Vol. I dealing with membership, Vol. II with organisation.

Karl Schlagenhauf's analysis of membership, membership structure, expectations and club links is due for publication in June. Vol. II is not due for publication until the end of the year.

The first volume springs no surprises. If anything, it merely confirms what might generally have been expected. Yet the venture remains both creditable and to the point.

Sports clubs in this country may at times be considered a laughing stock, but in other countries organised sport in he Federal Republic is usually viewed with sneaking admiration. It is certainly a credit to the country, all things considered.

Fourteen and a half million members of nearly 45,000 sports clubs are not to be sneezed at. Their number is unequalled anywhere else in the world.

A thumbnail sketch of the average sports club is no easy task. They come in all shapes and sizes, as varied and manifold as the country of which they form a cross-section.

There are clubs with a mere handful of members and clubs with thousands of members. There are clubs specialising in one sport or discipline only and others catering for dozens of disciplines.

There are clubs which concentrate mainly on competitive sport, whereas others cater mostly for leisure activities. Still others try to cater for all and sundry.

But all are run by unpaid committeemen. Only one club in 25 has a full-time paid secretary or club manager.

The survey notes that the membership boom in recent years has resulted in an influx of newcomers to the hallowed routine of club life, new members who are mainly interested in he sporting facilities the club has to offer. Larger clubs are better equipped to cater for these newcomers.

Most clubs are eternally short of cash because people in this country tend to regard sports clubs as a matter of course and a facility that ought to be provided virtually free of charge.

Most clubs raise at least fifty per cent of their revenue from subscriptions, yet 54 per cent of clubs charge as little as 2.50 deutschmarks per month in subscriptions.

"In medium-sized and small towns and villages a larger proportion of the population are members of sports clubs than in the cities.

"In villages of up to 5,000 people, 31 per cent of the population are paid-up members of local sports clubs, in towns of between 100,000 and 500,000 people the percentage is twenty or so and in major cities sports club members account for a mere seventeen per cent of the population."

Sporting infrastructure goes a long way towards explaining this state of affairs. Small towns are better endowed with sportsgrounds, playing fields, swimming baths and the like than cities often are.

Cities just cannot afford the cost of city-centre locations for sports facilities. What is more, small-town sports clubs are frequently the hub of social activities.

"Higher-income groups and people with higher professional status and educational qualifications are over-represented in sports clubs."

This is surprising in a way, since most clubs still charge very reasonable subscriptions, but it is undoubtedly the result of higher education, the mobility of higher-income groups, their ability to make contacts and the realisation that sport is good not only for fun and prestige, but also for your health.

"Members of large clubs put in more sport than members of small clubs," yet "the tendency of engage in competitive sport is more marked in small clubs than in larger ones."

The Karlsruhe survey also makes an interesting point on the clash between amateur and professional management:

"The relatively wide extent of agreement with club mergers and entrepreneurial club management would seem to indicate that many members are dissatisfied with the way clubs are run at present and feel club management is inefficient, particularly in meeting the demand for modern leisure facilities."

Thirty-five per cent of ordinary club members agreed that "the sport club in its present form is poorly suited to organise sport today as a leisure activity."

Herbert Neumann

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 5 May 1977)



Alwin Schockemöhle (Photo: Wilfried Witters)

Top showjumper Alwin Schockemöhle hangs up his saddle

After three days of soul-searching, showjumper Alwin Schockemöhle, 39, decided to call it a day and retire from competitive horsemanship after 24 years.

"Health reasons leave me with no other choice. I recently visited yet another specialist in Munich, but I am simply sick and tired of the trouble I have been having with my back," he says.

Since 23 February 1969, when first aid men eased him off his mount in Neumünster, he has known that he is suffering from a split disc. "There are times when the pain is like a dentist drilling the raw nerve." Yet he has made a point of completing every tournament for which he has since entered, braced by corsets and regardless of the pain. He won his first medals in showjumping at the threeday event in 1954. In the course of a lengthy career he has won everything that was there to be won.

Alwin Schockemöhle has chosen to retire at the height of sporting achievement as the reigning Olympic, world, European and national champion.

"I have seen many great sportsmen carry on past their best and am determined to call it a day while I am still at the top. I reckon my decision is the right one," Schockemöhle says. *sid*

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 7 May 1977)

First anti-doping charter drafted

On 30 April the Federal Republic Sports League and the National Olympic Committee joined forces to endorse an unprecedented commitment to clean up sport from the doping viewpoint.

The charter, which is the first of its kind in the world, was personally backed by Willi Weyer and Willi Daume, the heads of the two organisations.

It also bears the unmistakeable imprint of Tübingen professor Ommo Grupe, who drafted the charter in a spirit of humanitarian commitment and sporting courage.

The charter points out that top-flight sport is a shop-window of society and calls on political leaders to help ensure that athletes are given a fair deal in later life.

It incorporates a wholehearted commitment to unlimited international sporting ties and a reference to the dignity of sporting achievement which sports officialdom in this country would do well to note without further delay.

In place of prohibited drugs and suchlike subterfuges the charter calls for comprehensive promotion of both individual athletes and top-flight sport as a whole.

This constitutes implicit criticism of the Federal Competitive Sport Committee a number of chief coaches in various disciplines and an assortment of pundits who aspired to mastermind pre-Olympic preparations for meeting qualification requirements.

The criticism is couched in the mild-mannered language characteristic of Professor Grupe. One can but hope that the offenders will take note.

As for doping offenders, they can no longer pretend that their misdemeanour is no more heinous than a parking ticket. The Sports League and the NOC have backed to the hilt the principles of humanitarianism and decency in sport.

Adhering to them will require sacrifices, but those who fall by the wayside will be a minority that is unwilling to go straight.

Karl Adolf Scherer

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 2 May 1977)